DEVICES THAT ROCKED OUR WORLD, PG 26

Celebrity pg 30

Murphy's husband plans to sue studio

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COUVER • WEEKEND, JANUARY 29-31, 2010 metrone

Entertainment

Q & A with Buscemi on his latest flick

pg 22

More city street closures as Games approach

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

TRAFFIC Pacific and Expo Boulevards will close to traffic Friday as another part of the security perimeter takes effect around B.C. Place and GM Place.

Quebec Street, which connects the boulevards to Terminal Avenue, will also shut to traffic.

Similar road closures are already in place around the Athletes Village, Pacific Coliseum and the Main Media Centre at Canada Place.

On Monday, the streets around the Vancouver Olympic Centre (near Nat Bailey Stadium) will be closed to traffic. The Georgia and Dunsmuir Viaducts close Feb. 5 METRO VANCOUVER

News on the Move

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Vancouver Games

Countdown to 2010

Follow Metro as we bring you daily coverage leading up to the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

• Canada, U.S. remain cream of women's hockey crop, pg 17

On the web

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KIM STALKNECHT/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

Helicopters are used to transport bales of straw to build the half pipe and snowboard cross runs at Cypress Mountain for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. A warm winter and a lack of snow have forced organizers to improvise.

Cypress will be ready

VANOC, ski federation confident courses can be shaped on time

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Cypress Mountain will be ready for the Winter Games regardless of the hand dealt by Mother Nature, Olympic organizers said Thursday.

The local ski resort, home to freestyle skiing and snowboard events, has seen its normal winter flurries replaced by a flurry of workers shaping courses from bales of hay and snow "harvested" from higher elevations.

"Our goal is to move ahead with the weather we are dealt with," said Tim Gayda, VANOC's vice-president of sport.

Warm temperatures, combined with rain at lower elevations, prompted Cypress to shut down its alpine area in mid-January to conserve snow.

A team of 45 people has been working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to shape the courses.

Every Olympic Games gets hit by weather, Gayda said. Torino had similar problems with not enough snow and Nagano had issues with its alpine events because of too much snow.

As of Thursday, about 800 bales of hay, each weighing more than 450 kilograms, were airlifted by helicopter and stacked "like Lego" to shape course features.

Snow, harvested from high elevations on neighbouring Mount Strachan, was transported to the Black Mountain competition venues by mining dump trucks.

It was then pushed into place by snowcat. On the steep moguls and aerial course, it was even winched uphill by snowcats cabled to towers.

The International Ski Federation, which is responsible for certifying the venues ahead of competition, viewed Cypress on Tuesday and said they were confident the courses would be ready for the Games.

Warm winter

• The Lower Mainland is experiencing one of the warmest Januarys on record, Environment Canada said Thursday. Story, page 4

A-listers to attend '16-day party'

CELEBRITY Olympics offer an almost unmatched gathering of international A-listers from the worlds of sport, society, Hollywood, and business, and Vancouver should be no exception.

"I expect not to sleep at all," said Lainey Lui, known as Lainey Gossip to her fans in the blogosphere.

Lui is getting ready, which included a reconnaissance call to journalists who covered the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney.

"It was basically a 16-day party. I totally expect that to be the case in Vancouver," she said.

Omega, the official timekeeper of the Games, has confirmed a star-studded lineup of celebrity ambassadors, including supermodel Cindy Crawford, U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps and astronaut Buzz Aldrin. Other Omega endorsers are also rumoured to show up, including George Clooney, Nicole Kidman, Formula One driver Michael Schumacher, Chinese actress Zhang Ziyi and golfer Sergio Garcia.

Golfer Mike Weir will make an appearance on behalf of the Ontario pavilion, Wayne Gretzky and B.C. comedian Brent Butt will be at Hockey House and talk show host and comedian Stephen Colbert says he's coming with the U.S. speedskating team.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oh, no

• Celebrity athletes include NHL stars Sidney Crosby and Alexander Ovechkin, U.S. speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno and snowboarder Shaun White.

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Local

Canucks heading on road for 14 games

With GM Place shutting down so it can be ready for the Olympics, the Vancouver Canucks are embarking on a 14-game road trip, with their next home game scheduled for March 13. In all, they'll travel 20,737 kilometres — and, if you're wondering, that's the equivalent of more than 1.5 million Oreo cookies lined up one after the other, according to the NHL's official website.

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

RCMP Another RCMP member involved with the Surrey Six investigation is in trouble. Const. Steve Perrault has been charged with one count of fraud and another count of attempted fraud for two overtime forms he submitted last summer.

METRO VANCOUVER

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Blogs It's Called Football welcomes Chivas defender Ante Jazic to discuss his upcoming season

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Flag **Whoa Canada!**

JEFF HOSOKAWA/METRO VANCOUVER

Canada Post employees watch from the roof of the mail-processing plant in Vancouver Thursday after a massive flag was unfurled over the side of the building. The flag, which is larger than a hockey rink, will be displayed throughout the Olympics.

GPS on track for Games

The same high-tech GPS tracking technology that's used to monitor the movement of Super Bowl athletes on their buses is being employed during the 2010 Games to keep track of VIPs and equipment.

"It really is some high-tech stuff," said Jerry Hunter, founder and CEO of Oklahoma-based U.S. Fleet Tracking, adding the technology is like something out of a Bourne movie.

Hunter said his company's tracking devices monitor the exact location of anyone or anything deemed necessary, be it an equipment bag, a team bus, limousines transporting dignitaries, or elected officials and personnel.

"(They're) using us to make sure vehicles are where they're supposed to be, when they're supposed to be (there), and to co-ordinate the movement of personnel and materials," he said.

A team of around six people will closely monitor the movements of each "major asset" on 52-inch LCD screens delivering aerial maps with vehicle markers moving in real time.

Hunter said U.S. Fleet's services are in high demand during elite sporting events like the Pro Bowl and World Equestrian Games.

"At the Super Bowl, you've got a couple million dollars worth of athletes on buses, you want to know where those buses are at all times," he said. "The safety and security of athletes and personnel are our highest priority."

KRISTEN THOMPSON/ METRO VANCOUVER

Bobsledder's loved ones getting money back

OLYMPICS Bilked out of more than $8,000 in a Vancouver Olympic home-rental scam, U.S. bobsledder Steve Mesler's family and friends are getting their money back.

After Metro Vancouver first reported the story, Procter & Gamble said Thursday it will cover the group's losses, a gesture that Mesler said left him and his family "overwhelmed."

"The Olympics move people," said Mesler, a push athlete for the reigning four-man world and World Cup championship sled from the U.S. "That's the bottom line. I've thought that since I was a kid."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada's Olympic flagbearer to be announced Friday
Canada's flagbearer for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games is being announced on Friday afternoon at a ceremony in Richmond. The Canadian Olympic Committee will also be naming the members of the Canadian Olympic Team. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Not-so-wintry Games

January's mild weather here to stay for Olympics

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

We're on track for a record for the warmest January in Vancouver history and the mild weather — which caused headaches for Olympic organizers at Cypress Mountain — is set to last through the Games.

"It's here and it's sticking around," said David Jones, a meteorologist for Environment Canada.

Residents and Olympic visitors don't need to take Jones' word for it. On Thursday, Environment Canada launched a 2010 Games weather website that uses the latest in meteorology technology to provide up-to-the-minute reports and forecasts.

The site features live images of 2010 venue sites, historical weather trends and a street-level forecast, thanks to the installation of more than 60 weather stations around the region.

"As the clock ticks down toward the Olympics, I imagine organizers are thinking about the white stuff," said federal Environment Minister Jim Prentice.

"(VANOC) will make decisions based on the weather forecast Environment Canada provides. We need to provide accurate and up-to-the-minute information."

The government has also installed a Doppler radar, wind profiler and a network of automated weather stations to provide information VANOC needs to make decisions about venues.

"Winter weather in B.C. can change on a dime with some pretty severe weather impacts," said Dennis Dudley, a meteorologist with Environment Canada. "(This website) goes well beyond 'cloudy with a 30 per cent chance of flurries.'"

One hot town

- Vancouver is the warmest city ever to host the Winter Games.
- For weather info go to weatheroffice.gc.ca/2010.

Four crash victims freed from seatbelts: TSB

DEATHS Four of the six people who died in a float plane crash were able to get their seatbelts off as it sank, but they couldn't get out the doors.

A preliminary investigation by the Transportation Safety Board shows two of the four doors were jammed shut when the frame of the plane twisted on impact as it crashed near Saturna Island.

The pilot and a passenger, who were both near doors that popped open, escaped from the Seair de Havilland Beaver when it crashed last November.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cypress Mountain **Training day**

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Members of the Canadian military are seen taking part in an exercise on Cypress Mountain on Thursday. The army is providing security in wooded areas like Cypress and Whistler.

City considers donating banners for Haiti relief

DEATHS Vancouver's city council is looking at donating half of its Olympic and Paralympic banners to raise money for relief efforts in Haiti.

A motion before council on Tuesday suggests the city donate 3,000 of the 6,000 Olympic and Paralympic banners to UNICEF to auction off.

A report by city staff estimates that the 3,000 banners could raise $300,000 in donations.

The remaining banners would be used as originally intended, that is to "fund inner-city initiatives."

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

PIMP A Burnaby man has been arrested after a woman was allegedly lured into prostitution via Craigslist. In August 2009 police learned that a man was advertising online that women could earn a "substantial" amount of money for sexual services. After a five-month investigation a 24-year-old man was nabbed. Officers allege he lived off the avails of the woman for at least six months. Nilash Ashok Singh appears in court on Feb. 4.

HOMELESS Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson wants to revise the city's Homeless Action Plan by including targets to end street homelessness by 2015. He also wants a count of the homeless in March 2010.

FORGOTTEN Local artist Pamela Masik is unveiling new portraits Friday in The Forgotten series. The portraits aim to bring attention to women who have disappeared from the city's Downtown Eastside.

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Scientists call on Charest to stop asbestos exporting

Scientists from 28 countries are appealing to Quebec Premier Jean Charest to put a stop to asbestos exports from the province. They are asking Charest in a letter dated Thursday to take heed of extensive international scientific opinion that all forms of asbestos present a danger for public health. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Fonyo wants Order of Canada back

The man who raised millions for cancer research is thanking the public for supporting him after he was stripped of the Order of Canada. Steve Fonyo, left, made the comment from jail, where he is serving the remainder of an assault sentence after breaching his parole conditions. The Order of Canada can be revoked for several reasons, including when a recipient has been convicted of a criminal offence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Missile-like object mystery deepens

SIGHTINGS Questions continue to swirl around claims that missiles had been spotted over Newfoundland's southern coast, with a Liberal MP accusing Ottawa of providing no answers on the mysterious sightings.

Gerry Byrne, the MP for Humber-St. Barbe-Baie Verte, said Thursday he had received no further information on the missile-like objects seen earlier this week.

"The objective here should be to dispel rumours and conspiracy theories," he said from Corner Brook, N.L.

"It's not making any sense and nobody's providing any real answers, so questions are mounting."

Byrne said there had been no coherent response to the claims, with the RCMP initially saying that Public Safety Canada was handling the matter and Public Safety directing calls back to the Mounties.

The confusion arose when a woman in Harbour Mille claimed she was outside taking pictures of the sunset Monday when she saw something fly overhead.

A radio station in St. John's, N.L., said a French media outlet reported that France had conducted a ballistic missile test in the Atlantic Ocean, but far from the area where something was seen. No one from the French Embassy in Ottawa was available for comment. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper calls for G20 unity

PM tells countries to co-operate, put self-interest aside

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is warning other G20 leaders that the very body that eased the world out of recession could fail unless countries put their differences aside.

"It will stand or fall on its ability to demonstrate in the months to come the same co-operative spirit it has shown over the past year," Harper told an audience of bankers, business executives, government leaders and economists. "I am hopeful."

In a speech Thursday at the Davos World Economic Forum in Switzerland, the prime minister laid out his priorities for the G20 and G8 summits that Canada will host at the end of June.

He credited unprecedented co-operation among G20 members for cushioning the blow of the recession last year, but said countries now need to embrace what he is calling "enlightened sovereignty."

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Thursday.

That's when a country acts in the best interests of others because, in the end, the country's own self-interests will benefit.

"When the G20 resumes in Toronto, the discussion should be ... less about narrow self-interest in sovereignty's name, than an expanded view of mutual interest, in which there is room for all to grow and prosper."

He said G20 countries need to get on the same page when it comes to cracking down on banking activity, implementing stimulus programs and designing exit strategies to eventually reduce debt.

"In fact, if inadequate regulation is not addressed, I believe the consequences could actually be worse than before this crisis."

Canada's banking regulations strike the right balance between controlling bad behaviour and allowing financial institutions freedom to grow, he said.

However, none of the reforms proposed so far in the United States or Europe mirror Canada's system. Rather, countries are going off in all directions. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Probe launched into ignored detainee report

AFGHANISTAN The Canadian military has ordered a formal investigation into how a critical report on the beating of an Afghan prisoner remained buried at National Defence headquarters.

In June 2006 soldiers captured a suspected Taliban fighter and handed him over to local police, who then beat him to the point where the Canadians had intervene.

Gen. Walt Natynczyk

A report on the incident, which undermines Conservative government claims that no prisoners handed over to Afghans faced abuse, was apparently uncovered only in December.

Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Walt Natynczyk ordered an investigation, which is headed by Rear-Admiral Paul Maddison, commander of Joint Task Force Atlantic.

Natynczyk's deputy, Vice-Admiral Denis Rouleau, says the probe will look at the incident itself, why soldiers took the actions they did and how it was reported. The report of the investigation is due March 1 and is to be made public shortly after.

Natynczyk's admission that Canadians had indeed been the ones to detain the suspect caused shock waves on Parliament Hill and prompted accusations of a coverup. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

LAWSUIT The Supreme Court of Canada has rejected a request to rule on provisions of a wrongful death lawsuit brought by the grieving father of a Jehovah's Witness girl. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ScanLife

Many young Afghan vets struggle with returning to Canada, and a new outdoor program aims to ease the burden. Scan this code for the story.

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Canadians pleased with Tory response to Haiti: Poll

A new poll suggests a large majority of Canadians of all political stripes believe the Conservative government has responded well to the earthquake crisis in Haiti. The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey found that 71 per cent of respondents ranked the federal actions as good (41 per cent) or excellent (30 per cent). THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories take control in Senate

The Conservatives will have effective control in both houses of Parliament and greater sway over the legislative agenda after Prime Minister Stephen Harper names five new senators Friday.

The appointment of the new Conservative senators will end years of Liberal domination in the Upper Chamber and leave the Conservatives just two seats shy of a majority there. The power shift could help clear the way for Harper's plans to reform the Senate itself.

Harper is poised to appoint two senators from Ontario and one each in Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador.

In Quebec, victim's right activist Pierre-Hughes Boisvenu is expected to be named to the Senate.

"I've concluded that if the opportunity presented itself, it would be an opportunity to serve the country and to promote the ideas I've defended in the areas of justice and public security in Canada," Boisvenu told Sherbrooke's Tribune newspaper Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Metro Vancouver is hosting the world during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. During the Games there will be road restrictions, increased vehicle traffic and no parking at venues and along key routes. Public transit will be one of the easiest ways to get around, especially to Games venues and events. Be prepared and plan your commute ahead of time.

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TRANSLINK

Canada boosts funds in Afghan drug war

POPPIES Canada will nearly double its funding for the war against drugs in Afghanistan, but isn't ready to contribute cash to pay for negotiations with the Taliban.

Canada will contribute an extra $25 million to fight the spread of Afghanistan's illicit poppy crop — the backbone of the global heroin trade — on top of a previous contribution of $30 million, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said Thursday from London.

Cannon was representing Canada at an international meeting on Afghanistan. Delegates were plotting the eventual Western exit from the strife-torn country amid rising military casualties and growing public opposition after more than eight years of war.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai told delegates from about 70 countries and world bodies that he wants to convene a peace conference in his country to lure Taliban fighters to renounce violence.

"We must reach out to all our countrymen, especially our disenchanted brothers who are not part of al-Qaida or other terrorist networks," Karzai told the conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Deportation looms for alleged gang member

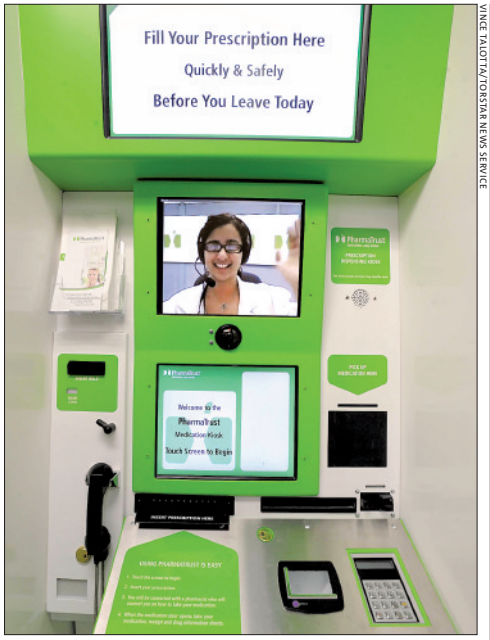
CALGARY The Federal Court of Canada has decided not to review a deportation order against a notorious alleged Calgary gang member. The decision — released following a judicial review — pushes Jackie Tran closer to being deported to Vietnam.

Tran's lawyer argued at last week's review that immigration authorities made mistakes when they dismissed the convicted drug trafficker's appeal of a 2004 deportation order that was based on serious criminality.

His lawyers have filed a request for a judicial review of a second deportation order that was issued on the basis that Tran is an alleged member of a criminal organization.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

First Nations University funding in jeopardy
The Saskatchewan government warns that it could cut off funding to the embattled First Nations University of Canada within days. Advanced Education Minister Rob Norris says there is "significant jeopardy" regarding public funding for the university, which is based in Regina. THE CANADIAN PRESS



VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The PharmaTrust Med Centre at Toronto's Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre helps patients who don't have access to a 24-hour pharmacy.

Push-button prescriptions

In a world where modern convenience is synonymous with machines, the introduction of a so-called "pharmacy in a box" will create efficiency for the people of Ontario, say its creators.

The large green and white kiosks resemble ATM machines and dispense pills like vending machines. With a real pharmacist linked in by video, the mini-pharmacies can take a patient's prescription and dispense medication any time of day.

Four of the kiosks have already landed in Toronto-area hospitals, according to the Ontario Hospital Association, and eight more kiosks will be added to hospitals and remote areas across the province.

"We see this concept, this idea of two-way video conferencing to a pharmacist, as the way of the future in health care," said Tom Closson, the association's president and chief executive officer, as he described the machine as the beginning of a virtual approach to the delivery of health services in Canada.

"We see this concept, this idea of two-way video conferencing to a pharmacist, as the way of the future in health care"
Tom Closson, Ontario Hospital Association

With a prescription, a patient can pick up a phone attached to the machine and reach a pharmacist through video conference 24 hours a day. The pharmacist can counsel the patient and has full control of the medication being dispensed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Med schools need tweaking: Report

HEALTH A new report recommends adaptations and reforms at medical schools across the country so that Canada's doctors will have more skills they'll need in the future.

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada released the report on the future of medical education Thursday, saying that it provides a collective vision to address many of the challenges facing the health-care system.

Dr. Nick Busing, co-chair of the task force producing the report, says the medical needs of communities are changing, and there's an increasing incidence of chronic disease and a greater focus on community- and office-based care for everyone except the most severely ill.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Benefits need overhaul, vets say

DISABILITY PENSIONS The country's recently-revised system of veterans benefits needs an overhaul, Canada's walking wounded have told Liberal MPs.

Former soldiers and police officers, speaking Thursday at a forum sponsored by the Opposition on Parliament Hill, outlined their grievances over the 2006 Veterans Charter.

Sean Bruyea, a former military intelligence officer and long-time veterans advocate, said the charter penalizes veterans.

In many cases, it replaces long-term disability pensions with lump-sum payments.

Bruyea said that was done because the bureaucracy wanted to protect the country from the "alarming future liability" of soldier's pensions.

"That is, to save money," Bruyea said. "It is indeed tragic that the bureaucracy sees us ... as liabilities."

Retired general Romeo Dallaire, now a Liberal senator, said National Defence is much improved when it comes to recognizing and assessing soldiers who suffer from trauma, but the veterans affairs system still has a long way to go.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff said his party will be "watching very carefully" to make sure the March 4 budget includes "necessary investments" for veterans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

INVESTING Canadians have until March 1 to make their 2009 contributions to their registered retirement savings plans, and it looks like fewer will be taking advantage of the plan this year. A survey done by Royal Bank late in 2009 indicated that just 35 per cent of Canadians have contributed to or plan to contribute to an RRSP for the 2009 tax year — the lowest percentage of contributors since 1996. Canada was still recovering from a recession at that time, just like now. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Comment

Only celebrations deserve applause

UrbanCompass

What's a nice guy like me doing in Ethan Baron's column in the Province?

Getting my butt chewed out, according to some sharp-eyed readers.

On Monday, EB called me typical of the critics who are quick to condemn celebrities who are just as quick to lend their celebrity to raise money for the survivors of natural disasters like the Haiti earthquake.

He was responding to a column I wrote, a bit cynically I admit, about jewels and gowns for disaster. Instead of criticizing George Clooney or Angelina Jolie, writes EB, I should be giving them a standing ovation.

He "struggles" to understand us critics. "Are they driven by guilt because they're doing nothing while others are speaking out?" What do these people want anyway?

Well, Ethan, my point, and I do have one, is simple:

There is a profound imbalance here. Everything is upside down. There's nothing glamorous or uplifting about what happened in Haiti. When Madonna or some other Lady Bountiful stands up on a beautifully lit and appointed stage and lifts her voice to the heavens, I don't stand and applaud.

When you're waiting for the ambulance to come, you don't have time for some song-and-dance routine. You just want help to get there as fast as possible. And in Haiti, or Indonesia, or New Orleans, it simply took too long for the ambulance to arrive. Sadly, the media turned up right away and the celebrities weren't far behind. Sorry, but that's backwards.

I also sit on my hands because, in these dire circumstances, the donor should never be more important than the recipient, and in the case of Haiti, the disparity is ridiculous. Remember Anonymous Donor? He's gone the way of the dodo. Now Bono and Madonna are pushing each other out of the way to get some of that disaster career relief. If George Clooney & Co. really want to help, they could send millions to Oxfam and not tell one single person about it. But they're celebrities. They can't help themselves.

Finally, I sit on my hands because these exercises are designed to make the bad feelings go away, and when 200,000 people and the homes of millions more are reduced to rubble, I don't think the bad feelings should go away. Not for a day, not for a minute. Not until every child is safe, every family reunited.

Ethan, I hope there's enough food for thought here to make you sit down and hold the applause until there's something to celebrate.

Meanwhile, there's work to do.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Sounds too good to be true – it probably is

Marketplace

Admit it — at some time in your life you've said to yourself, "I wish I was rich."

That desire is not a crime — but it may be leading people to waste their money, and their time, at a popular weekend workshop we've been investigating.

The workshop is called "Learn to Be Rich." Ads feature Robert Kiyosaki, author of Rich Dad, Poor Dad — one of the bestselling financial help books ever written. And the workshops are popular — rolling into towns across Canada every weekend, filling ballrooms with people eager to learn how to turn around their financial fortunes.

People are told they will learn valuable skills in real estate development, or how to play the stock market. But at Marketplace, we were hearing complaints about the three-day workshops (that cost $500), so we decided to enrol in one on real estate.

The problems started within the first half-hour, where our instructor told us we weren't going to get the tools needed that weekend to get rich. Turns out, this weekend workshop was just a primer — we really needed to sign up for more advanced courses. And the cost for those? A mere $12,000 to $45,000!

But there was to be no discussion of the price — our trainer told us if we didn't like it, he would tell us to leave.

Throughout the weekend, we felt bullied and pressured to sign up for the advanced courses (where the real money was to be made). There was some instruction, but when we met with real estate lawyer Bob Aaron, he called what we were taught "bad advice," and said many techniques were just plain "dumb."

To make matters worse, our instructor misled us with a whopper of a tale, and later blew up at participants because not enough people took the opportunity to shell out up to $45,000 for more courses. It left us questioning what financial guru Kiyosaki thought about it all.

When we caught up with him, even Kiyosaki admitted there were problems with some of the tactics used in the workshops that bear his Rich Dad brand.

Bottom line? That age old nugget holds — if a weekend workshop on how to be rich sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Erica Johnson co-hosts Marketplace on CBC Television, which airs Fridays at 8:30 p.m.

Tips when researching seminars

- Use the Internet to check out the seminar instructor or company beforehand. Or, using a search engine, type in phrases from their advertising along with the word "complaints." The results may reveal a history you didn't expect.
- Be wary of "free" seminars. Often they serve as forums to sell books, CDs, tapes or further seminars.

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Suspected serial rapist arrested

Authorities say a suspected serial rapist has been captured in Austria after his DNA was linked to two cases in California. Ali Achekzai, a 32-year-old Afghan national, was arrested this week in Salzburg. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

J.D. Salinger dies at 91

J.D. Salinger, the legendary author, youth hero and fugitive from fame whose book The Catcher in the Rye shocked and inspired a world he increasingly shunned, has died at 91. Salinger, seen at left on a 1961 illustrated cover of Time magazine, died of natural causes at his remote New Hampshire home Wednesday, where he had lived for decades in self-imposed isolation. The Catcher in the Rye, with its immortal teenage protagonist, the twisted, rebellious Holden Caulfield, came out in 1951, a time of anxious Cold War conformity and the dawn of modern adolescence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pork an aphrodisiac: Argentina's president

BUENOS AIRES Argentina's president thinks eating pig meat is really sexy.

Many people in this beef-loving nation reacted with surprise Thursday after Cristina Fernandez promoted pork in a speech during which she not only said pork is better than Viagra, but suggested she's personally proven it.

"I didn't know that eating pork improved sexual activity," Fernandez said in a meeting with representatives of the nation's swine industry late Wednesday.

"It is much more gratifying to eat some grilled pork than to take Viagra."
Cristina Fernandez

"It is much more gratifying to eat some grilled pork than to take Viagra."

She even joked that "it was all good" after she enjoyed some pork with her husband, former President Nestor Kirchner.

"I think they might be right," Fernandez said to a laughing audience.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K. Throwing money around

SANG TAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters wearing masks, from left, of Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, U.S. President Barack Obama and French President Nicolas Sarkozy throw "money" into a bucket in a demonstration in London where the Afghanistan Conference was taking place on Thursday.

What's in a girl's name?

Baby born in Haitian DART clinic named after two Canadian medics

Haiti Crisis

If you read this story in a few years' time, Monique-Lucie Marie, here's how things happened on the day you were born.

You came into the world in a medical clinic run by the Canadian military, in a canvas tent just a few metres off the beach in Haiti. Your country had just been crippled by a powerful earthquake that reduced the area around you to chunks of rubble. Your grand entry occurred on a Thursday, with the help of the Canadian soldiers who'd come to lend a hand in your battered nation.

Your first name, by the way, comes from Canada.

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Master Cpl. Lucie Rouleau, left, from Quebec City, and Cpl. Monique Bartlett, from Oromocto, N.B., hold Monique-Lucie Marie Thursday after delivering her at the Canadian DART medical clinic in Jacmel, Haiti.

Its origins can be traced back to places called Oromocto, N.B., and Quebec City, the respective home towns of Cpl. Monique Bartlett and Master Cpl. Lucie Rouleau, the two Canadian medical technicians who assisted in the delivery.

Your father promised he'd tell you one day why he and your mom chose it.

"I did it to say thank you," said Jean-Charles Pierre. "I will tell her one day that in the middle of a natural catastrophe, Canadians were in Jacmel. And she carries their name." Yours was the first delivery of a baby in the military clinic in Jacmel, the base of Canada's Disaster Assistance Response Team. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Girl rescued

- A 16-year-old girl pulled from the rubble more than two weeks after the earthquake was in stable condition Thursday to the surprise of doctors, who said her survival was medically inexplicable.

Man allegedly abused Haitians

SCHOOL A Colorado man charged with sexually abusing boys at a school he founded for street children in Haiti faces new charges that raise the number of alleged victims to 18. Authorities accuse Douglas Perlitz of enticing children at the Project Pierre Toussaint school in Cap-Haitien into sex acts by promising them food, shelter, cash, cellphones, electronics and shoes. They say he also withheld benefits and threatened to expel the boys if they refused his wishes. Perlitz, who founded the school when he lived in Connecticut, was arrested last September at his home in Eagle, Colo., and remains in custody.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

m.metronews.ca

ScanLife

Iran vows to follow Thursday's executions with justice for other 'foreign-linked' anti-regime activists. Scan this code for the story.

News in brief

FILE SHARING A group representing major music labels said it will reject a reduced penalty for a Minnesota woman found guilty of sharing 24 songs over the Internet, and will instead begin preparing for another trial to determine new damages. Last year, a jury ruled Jammie Thomas-Rasset wilfully violated the copyrights on 24 songs. She was ordered to pay $1.92 million US in damages. Last week, a judge reduced the verdict, calling the jury's penalty "monstrous and shocking."

GEORGIA Environmental groups sued the U.S. Navy on Thursday to halt plans for an offshore training range that they fear would threaten endangered whales, which migrate to nearby waters off Georgia each winter. The lawsuit says the Navy approved construction of the $100 million US range in July without completing studies to determine whether military ships would pose harm to the endangered species of whales.

U.S. More than half of the operators of power plants and other "critical infrastructure" say in a new study that their computer networks have been infiltrated by sophisticated adversaries. In many cases, foreign governments are suspected.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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A cash payment of $100 will be offered to qualified and participating respondents.

Bernanke confirmed to second term
The U.S. Senate has confirmed Ben Bernanke for a second term as chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama's speech spawns controversy

The U.S. Supreme Court justices may never show up again, journalist Chris Matthews is on the defensive and Republicans are taking issue with being chided for their partisanship.

State of the Union addresses historically disappear into the ether, having not the slightest impact on a president's standing in the polls, given a cynical public that considers the events little more than primetime advertisements for the current administration.

But U.S. President Barack Obama's speech and its aftermath was the talk of Washington Thursday — in particular, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito's response to Obama's criticism about a recent high court ruling to roll back limits on corporate spending on political campaigns.

In keeping with tradition, the other five judges in attendance sat stone-faced through much of the address; an ailing Ruth Ginsburg even nodded off.

Politics of decorum

• Wednesday's speech saw what was considered a breach of decorum on behalf of both U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and U.S. President Barack Obama — Alito for responding, and Obama for criticizing the Supreme Court, even though Abraham Lincoln once expressed his disgust for a pro-slavery Supreme Court ruling.

Supreme Court justices, after all, must not appear to be partisan.

But Alito, a George W. Bush appointee, shook his head, furrowed his brow and uttered "not true, not true" when Obama said, erroneously, that the court had reversed a century of law with its decision.

Matthews, the MSNBC host, was under fire for the remark he made while praising Obama's "post-racial" presidency and his role in helping to end racial prejudice: "I forgot he was black."

Those five words immediately caused a frenzy on Twitter and in the blogosphere, with hundreds of commenters either questioning what Matthews meant or openly accusing him of racism.

Matthews returned to the air soon after to explain himself — in short, that it was a thrill for him, having grown up during the civil rights movement, to watch a black president address a Congressional gathering made up of mostly white people.

Republicans, meantime, were still smarting Thursday after being scolded by Obama for voting against every piece of legislation "just because they can."

"If he had an intention to reach out to Republicans, I can tell you it did not achieve the objective, nor did I think it was as much an assessment of the state of the nation or union as it was a political tirade," said Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scientists want to exhume da Vinci's remains

ITALY The legend of Leonardo da Vinci is shrouded in mystery: How did he die? Are the remains buried in a French chateau really those of the Renaissance master? Was the Mona Lisa a self-portrait in disguise?

A group of Italian scientists believes the key to solving those puzzles lies with the remains — and they say they are seeking permission from French authorities to dig up the body to conduct carbon and DNA testing.

If the skull is intact, the scientists can go to the heart of a question that has fascinated scholars and the public for centuries: The identity of the Mona Lisa. Recreating a virtual and then physical reconstruction of Leonardo's face, they can compare it with the smiling face in the painting, experts involved in the project told The Associated Press.

491 Years since Leonardo da Vinci's death. The artist's original burial place was destroyed during the French Revolution, and remains that are believed to be his were eventually reburied at Amboise Castle in France.

"We don't know what we'll find if the tomb is opened, we could even just find grains and dust," says Giorgio Gruppioni, an anthropologist who is participating in the project.

"But if the remains are well kept, they are a biological archive that registers events in a person's life, and sometimes in their death."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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iPad awaits price drop breakout

Apple Inc.'s iPad tablet may take a year to turn into a "breakout" product with mass-market appeal as consumers wait for the price to drop below $499 and for more publishers to get on board. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Doubts cast on big employment pickup

Surveys and methodologies show great disparity

A new Statistics Canada employment survey has cast a cloud over its previously announced large pickup in jobs in November.

The delayed survey of industry released Thursday found that employers shed 33,800 net jobs in November.

Last month, Statistics Canada, reporting on a survey of Canadian households, found employers added 111,000 jobs in November — a number that shocked many economists and seemed to signal the advent of a strong economic rebound.

That data indicated an actual net gain of 79,000 jobs because of a drop in the number of self-employed. This is the second time in four months that the two surveys — which use different methodologies — have shown such a pronounced disparity.

Economists say that over time the two surveys even out, but some suggest that the industry estimate likely more accurately reflects the current underlying weakness in Canada's labour market. The industry survey also most closely resembles the U.S. nonfarm payroll data used to calculate unemployment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scarcity remains

- Another sign that good jobs are still scarce is that average employee weekly earnings rose a mere 1.3 per cent in November from a year earlier, just barely above inflation.

m.metronews.ca

ScanLife

Huge jump in Microsoft's earnings lead the way for a wider computer industry rebound. Scan this code for the story.

Business in brief

PURCHASE A group of homeowners and local businesspeople have teamed up to buy the Panorama Mountain Village ski resort in the B.C. Rockies south of Kootenay National park from financially troubled Intrawest. Intrawest is owned by private equity firm Fortress Investment Group, which took on massive debt to buy it for $3.1 billion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toyota mum on when cars will be fixed

AUTOMOTIVE Toyota has begun shipping parts to fix the faulty gas pedals that led to a still-expanding recall and an unprecedented decision to stop selling and building some of its top-selling models, but it still could not say Thursday when millions of its drivers would get their cars fixed.

The world's largest automaker, bleeding millions of dollars a day in lost sales, also declined to say where the parts are going — to plants so production can start again or to dealers so they can start fixing cars sitting in their showrooms or already on the road. Amid the uncertainty, the recall grew wider. Toyota expanded the recall beyond an initial 2.3 million vehicles in the U.S. and 270,000 in Canada and said it would recall an untold number in Europe and about 75,000 in China because of bad gas pedals that can become stuck. Separately, Toyota recalled 1.1 million more vehicles this week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Enbridge Inc. strikes deal

ENERGY Oil and gas transportation firm Enbridge Inc. has struck an agreement with the FCCL Partnership between ConocoPhillips and EnCana to build additional pipeline and terminal facilities supporting expansion of the Christina Lake oilsands project.

The expansion at Christina Lake, operated by the Cenovus Energy unit split off from EnCana last year, is estimated to cost about $250 million and be in service late in 2011, Enbridge said Thursday.

Christina Lake's existing facilities are currently tied in to Enbridge's Athabasca pipeline that moves crude oil from five oilsands projects to the Hardisty and Edmonton mainline hubs.

Enbridge shares were down five cents at $46.62 in morning trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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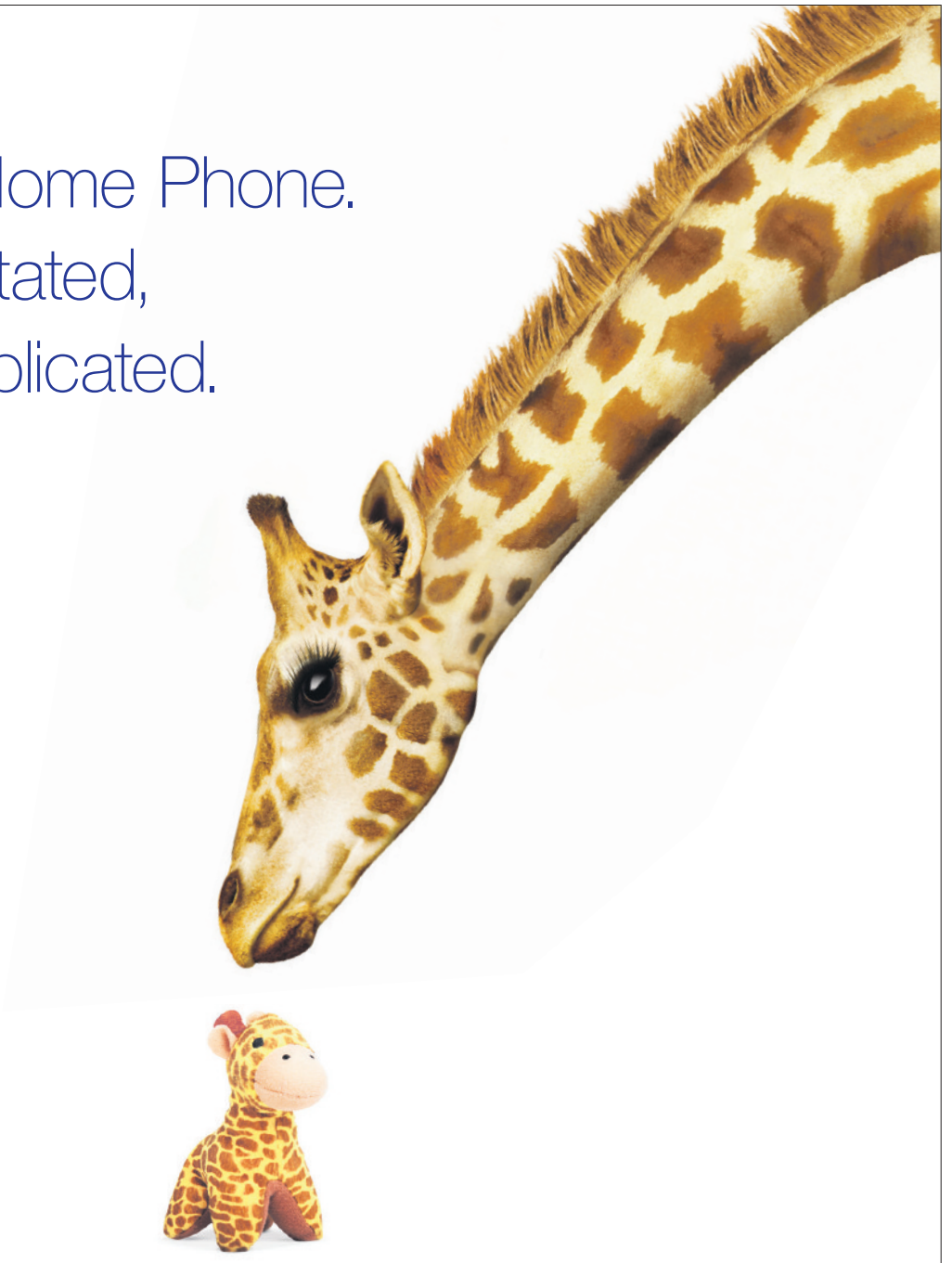

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Giambi signs with Rockies
The Colorado Rockies have finalized a one-year deal to bring Jason Giambi back to Denver to back up Todd Helton at first base. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Robbie makes it into one Hall

Unlike Cooperstown, the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame isn't wasting any time in adding Roberto Alomar to its ranks. The former Toronto Blue Jays second baseman will be enshrined at the museum in St. Marys, Ont., this summer after being named for induction Thursday. Earlier this month, Alomar missed out on being named for induction to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., by eight votes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

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Despite being everything the Olympics wants these days, Canadian extreme-skiing champ Sarah Burke will be on the sidelines in Vancouver. Scan this code for the story.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Phoenix 3 Calgary 2 (SO)
Ottawa 4 Pittsburgh 1
St. Louis 2 Edmonton 1
Atlanta 4 Philadelphia 3
Carolina 4 N.Y. Islanders 1
Los Angeles 4 Columbus 1
Minnesota 1 Colorado 0
Chicago 4 San Jose 3 (OT)

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Toronto at New Jersey
Florida at Washington
Boston at Buffalo
Anaheim at Tampa Bay
Nashville at Detroit
Colorado at Dallas

NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Toronto 106 New York 104
Orlando 96 Boston 94
Dallas 106 Phoenix 112

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Cleveland at Indiana
L.A. Lakers at Philadelphia
Boston at Atlanta
L.A. Clippers at Minnesota
Chicago at New Orleans
Denver at Oklahoma City
Miami at Detroit
Washington at New Jersey
Portland at Houston
Memphis at San Antonio
Sacramento at Utah
Charlotte at Golden State

Epic road journey awaits Canucks

Hockey players say road trips are great for team bonding.

So the Vancouver Canucks should be blood brothers by March 13 when they finally return to GM Place to face the Ottawa Senators.

Or not.

"Either we're ready to kill each other or we've had some good stories on the road," said fourth-liner Darcy Hordichuk before the club began its epic pre and post-Olympic journey Thursday.

By the time the travelling ends, the Canucks will have logged more than 20,000 kilometres, gone 44 days without a home date and played 14 away contests.

They're the NHL's vagabonds because the Winter Olympics have taken over GM Place.

"You go to brothers, then you go beyond," winger Tanner Glass said of the bonding progression.

"You go to siblings and have rivalries with your roommates."

Glass rooms with Hordichuk, the team enforcer.

"I'll probably want to strangle him by the end of this," Glass said with a grin.

RICH LAM/GETTY IMAGES

The Canucks won't be adored by fans at GM Place for a very long time — March 13 to be exact.

In addition to a steady diet of hostile rinks, the first being Toronto for a Saturday game, the Canucks' odyssey will take them from mid-winter Montreal to balmy Florida then back to freezing Minnesota.

"It's something I've never experienced," Alex Burrows, who once rode the buses in the ECHL, said of the next month and a half. "It's going to be challenging, that's for sure."

But it's not all about packing enough underwear. Winter coats and tuques share suitcase space with shorts and sandals.

"Usually I pack five minutes before we take off," said Mikael Samuelsson. "Not for this trip. You've got to do some thinking before it. It's going to be a big bag for sure."

And a big impact on the Canucks' success, according to centre Ryan Kesler.

"It's going to be one of those (road trips) that will make or break our season probably," said Kesler.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Serena stands in the way of Henin's storybook finish

TENNIS Even Serena Williams likes the story of Justine Henin's comeback.

Only two tournaments into her return from a 20-month retirement, Henin has made it all the way to the Australian Open final. Her only obstacle to a happy ending Saturday is Williams.

"Justine hasn't been gone that long, but it's still a good story," said Williams, who has a long and intense rivalry with Henin that has never included a Grand Slam final.

The top-ranked Williams and the former No. 1 Henin have played 13 times, including six Grand Slam showdowns that went as far as only the semifinals. Serena holds a 7-6 edge in their overall matchups. In Grand Slams, Henin leads 4-2.

Henin won her semifinal on Thursday against 2008 Wimbledon semifinalist Zheng Jie 6-1, 6-0. The match lasted 51 minutes and was the most lopsided semifinal at the Australian Open since Chris Evert beat Andrea Jaeger by the same score in 1982.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Men's action

- Andy Murray is only one victory away from doing what no British man has done in more than 70 years — win a Grand Slam singles title. Murray beat Marin Cilic Thursday to advance to Sunday's Australian Open final. He'll take on the winner of Friday night's semifinal between Roger Federer and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Sports in brief

MLS Major League Soccer and its players agreed Thursday to extend bargaining through Feb. 12 in an effort to avoid a work stoppage. The league's five-year labour contract expires Sunday and players have feared management would lock them out the following day.

MLB The Big Unit is coming back to Seattle for opening day. The Mariners announced that former ace Randy Johnson will throw out the ceremonial first pitch before April 12's home opener against Oakland.

NFL New York Jets quarterback Mark Sanchez might have surgery this off-season to stabilize the patella ligament in his left knee.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No quad for Chan
Canada's Patrick Chan has decided to shelve the quad jump for the Vancouver Olympics. The 19-year-old said attempting it at the Games would be too risky. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

On a collision course

Traditional favourites Canada, U.S. expected to play for gold

Four years ago, Sweden rocked the women's hockey world by upsetting the United States in the semifinals at the Turin Olympics.

But don't expect a repeat in Vancouver.

While Finland and Sweden appear to be closing the gap between the North Americans and Scandinavians, the traditional world order in women's hockey will likely be re-established at the 2010 Games.

The Canadian and American hockey federations have put the full weight of their resources behind their Olympic teams and their preparation surpasses any other country.

For that reason, defending champion Canada and the U.S. are expected to meet for the gold medal Feb. 25 at Canada Hockey Place.

On the web
Learn more about the Canadian roster in an interactive profile at **metronews.ca/sports**

Sweden's semifinal win in Turin marked the first time Canada and the U.S. didn't meet in an Olympic or world championship final. Canada defeated the Swedes 4-1 for gold.

The Americans were ill-prepared in 2006. The players did not practise or play as many games together as they had for the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. It showed.

The U.S. didn't skimp on preparation this time. Non-college players spent all of last winter together in Blaine, Minn. They were joined in August by collegiate players taking the school year off to play in the Olympics.

The U.S. has been the dominant country heading into the Games after winning back-to-back world championships for the first time. Only recently has Canada, winner of two straight Olympic gold medals, regained the upper hand against their American rivals with a 7-3 record in exhibition and tournament games since Aug. 1.

When women's hockey made its Olympic debut in Nagano, Japan in 1998, the U.S. won the first Olympic gold medal. Four years later, Canada took the gold in Salt Lake.

The U.S. aims to beat the Canadians on their home soil this time.

"We're not in this to finish second," says U.S. head coach Mark Johnson.

On the other side of the rivalry is Canada's Melody Davidson of Oyen, Alta. She was the only female head coach at the 2006 Olympics and remains so in 2010.

The queen of preparation, Davidson left nothing to chance in 2006. No country was as ready as Canada and she's kept the same approach for 2010.

By the time the Canadians open against Slovakia on Feb. 13, they will have played 55 games against local men's midget triple-A teams and women's international squads.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PHILLIP MACCALLUM/GETTY IMAGES

Hayley Wickenheiser of Team Canada skates during a game against Team USA at Scotiabank Place on Jan. 1 in Ottawa.

No fancy digs for millionaire members of hockey team

VILLAGE Steve Yzerman and Mario Lemieux shared a room on the eve of one of the most important games in Canadian hockey history.

There was no five-star resort for Team Canada at the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City and there won't be at the Vancouver Games either.

Instead, the millionaire hockey players will be staying in the Olympic village alongside speedskaters, snowboarders and other athletes competing in Vancouver. The accommodations aren't exactly spartan but they're not quite as fancy as the places NHL teams typically call home on the road.

Team Canada is in a different tax bracket than your average Olympian. Its combined player income is more than $120 million US this season.

The $1-billion Olympic village in Vancouver will be converted to condos after the Games. Of the 1,100 units available, 737 will be available as condos, with the remaining used as affordable housing and rental properties. Condo prices range from $450,000 to $10 million.

Team Canada has called the village home in every Olympics involving NHL players — Nagano in 1998, Salt Lake City in 2002 and Turin in 2006. And there wasn't much of a discussion about whether that tradition would continue in Vancouver.

"Hockey Canada, the players, the whole hockey movement wants to stay in the village and be a part of the Olympic Games," said Hockey Canada vice-president Johnny Misley, who is overseeing the organization's logistics for Vancouver. "The simple answer to that one is why wouldn't we?"

Compare that to U.S. basketball's "Dream Team," which elects to arrange its own Olympic accommodations and famously stayed on a luxury cruise liner during the Athens Games in 2004.

When the NBA stars first competed at the Olympics in 1992, the U.S. team's decision to take up occupancy at a $900-per-night hotel rather than the Olympic village made big news in Barcelona, prompting outspoken basketball star Charles Barkley to remark: "I'm a black millionaire — I've earned the right to stay where I want to stay."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The case for Clara as flag-bearer

For a country that has not always been defined by patriotism, the choice of a flag-bearer is one that most Canadians view as a sacred trust.

It's a decision not taken lightly. The person selected has to be just right.

There are many qualified athletes out there but none fits the bill better than a cyclist turned speedskater named Clara Hughes.

It's awfully hard to argue against her.

Hughes transcends statistics and accomplishments on the field of play. Based on the fact that she is a five-time Olympian and the winner of five medals, as well as being the only Canadian to have ascended the podium at both the Winter and Summer Games, Hughes soars above most of the rest.

Her credentials as an athlete are beyond question.

As a human being who reflects Canada, Clara Hughes is more than distinguished.

She is a native of Winnipeg, who lives in Quebec and is fluent in both of the country's official languages. That has to count for something. Less tangible, but equally striking, is this 37-year-old woman's commitment to the Olympic movement and all it entails as well as the responsibility it demands.

As an ambassador of the humanitarian organization Right to Play, Hughes has devoted her time and money to ensure that the world's most disadvantaged children are positively affected by sport.

When asked recently to assess the meaning of being Canadian, Hughes responded by forwarding an essay she had written on the occasion of the nation's birthday.

"Racing through many of the areas where, historically speaking, Canada fought for freedom held a lot of weight," she wrote of her cycling training in Europe. "As a young person, it made me see that my country was indeed a special place."

Clara Hughes understands that being Canadian is a privilege and a way of living that conjures up strength. She discovered this on the start line of her first Olympic cycling race in Atlanta in 1996.

"It was an energy that I had never felt before," she admitted. "The mythology of the Olympics combined with that Maple Leaf on my back gave me a feeling of limitless possibilities. On that day I had all of Canada inside of me."

Clara Hughes is what Canada needs in a flag-bearer.

She's someone for whom a country's expectations are never a burden but rather a way to be empowered.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

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Movies&Entertainment

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Movies

‘Extreme’ emotion Pg 20

Channing Tatum talks to Metro about opening up his emotional side in the new Nicholas Sparks adaptation, Dear John.

Movies Pg 21

Mel Gibson is back on the Edge of Darkness.

Alan Cross Pg 26

Check out the musical history of mobile devices.

Television Pg 28

Leno just wants to erase the drama of the last six months.

“A THRILL RIDE!”
Mark S. Allen, *CBS-TV*

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At a glance
When in Rome ●½, Edge of Darkness ●●●●, Police, Adjective ●●●●●, The Last Station ●●●½, Crazy Heart ●●●½

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Tatum, all raw and naked

Heartthrob digs deep for Dear John role

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Channing Tatum has worked in his fair share of genres, from indie films (A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints) to dance flicks (Step Up) to blockbusters (G.I. Joe). In his latest, Dear John, the Alabama native takes on a heavy Nicholas Sparks love story under the direction of Lasse Hallstrom, who's no stranger to pulling breakthrough performances out of young actors.

"Lasse's a beast," Tatum says of his Swedish director.

"He has an allergic reaction to anything that's false. Even down to wardrobe. You don't argue. But acting-wise, he really gives you freedom. It's nerve-wracking and it makes you work harder."

Tatum remembers Hallstrom encouraging him to open up the way Leonardo DiCaprio did for What's Eating Gilbert Grape? That role led to DiCaprio's first Oscar nomination.

Movie feature

"He's says he's going to give you the same freedom he gave Leo in Gilbert Grape," Tatums says. "I had no idea what that meant. I was like, 'So you want me to be mentally challenged?'"

Part of preparing for Dear John, in which Tatum plays a young soldier torn between true love and duty, involved getting to know some actual Special Forces soldiers, many of whom appeared as extras in the film.

"They are gun-slingers," Tatum says of the soldiers he met.

"They want to go. They view it as, like, recess. They get to go blow stuff up every day. When you get them away from their military stuff, they're just normal kids that are just a little crazier than most. And they're all insanely intelligent as well."

Dear John opens next week

Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried pair up in Dear John.

Tatum himself is a fan of blowing stuff up, but he admits acting in action films isn't quite the same as actually working with explosives.

"The blowing up stuff is fun, but they never let the actors be around that stuff. That's the stunt guys," he says. "They never let you do the fun stuff. If you do a bull-riding movie, you're never going to get to be on a bull."

That's why he prefers dramatic work like Dear John, he insists.

"Doing the emotional side is such a more extreme way to experience a film and to experience a character," he says.

"It's raw — naked at times. It's kind of scary because acting is one of the one jobs where you never really know if you got it right."

"Doing the emotional side is such a more extreme way to experience a film and to experience a character. ... It's kind of scary."
Channing Tatum

Tatum's next chance to try to get it right is The Eagle of the Ninth, a period action film set in Roman-ruled England and co-starring Jamie Bell.

"My favourite movies are Braveheart and Gladiator, so I've been looking for one of these movies for a long time," Tatum says, though he admits filming wasn't exactly easy.

"It's by far the hardest thing I've ever done. Not physically, but climate-wise. Don't ever go film a movie in Scotland. Like, ever.

"The people are amazing and it's beautiful, but you are going to be wet and soaked all the way through. It was harsh."

On the web

- For trailers, screen times and photos — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Police, Adjective deadpan smash

Police, Adjective
Director: Scott Cooper
Stars: Dragos Bucur, Vlad Ivanov
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●●●

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

A scene from the Romanian film Police. Adjective.

REVIEW The directors of Romania's so-called New Wave have all dealt in some way with the dark legacy of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, but Corneliu Porumboiu's film manifests a particularly sophisticated analysis.

As in his previous comedy 12:08 East of Bucharest, Porumboiu emphasizes stasis and duration, structuring his story of an undercover cop (Dragos Bucur) tailing a teenaged hashish dealer as a series of drawn-out, repetitive scenes — the better to call attention to the subtle variations therein.

There are some who find these effects stifling, but patient, attentive viewers will understand that Porumboiu's deadpan style lines up perfectly with the experience of his protagonist: Cristi's senses are being gradually deadened by his surveillance detail. Gradually, his boredom mutates into something deeper and more anxious: he's worried that his quarry's transgressions don't line up with the impending punishment (a suspicion reinforced by a conversation with his girlfriend about Romania's shifting legal topography).

Cristi is hardly the first movie cop to suffer such pangs of conscience. But Police, Adjective is almost certainly the first cop movie to pivot on the official definition of the term. As in 12:08, Porumboiu brings his story — and themes — to a head in an extended seriocomic set-piece: an office showdown between Cristi and his superior officer Vlad Ivanov), whose by-the-book mentality represents an entire country's totalitarian hangover.

This hilarious and finally heartbreaking scene reminds Cristi — and the audience — that one must always choose their words carefully.

Clint an American fave: Poll
Clint Eastwood, everyone's favourite bounty hunter / maverick cop / grumpy old man, has knocked Denzel Washington from his three-year perch as America's favourite star, this year's Harris Poll reveals. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Darkness edgy thriller

Edge of **Darkness**

Director: Martin Campbell
Stars: Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Mel Gibson plays a detective trying to solve his daughter's murder in Edge of Darkness.

Edge of Darkness is surprisingly satisfying, a small, taut thriller with enough fury and bursts of sudden violence to draw plenty of comparisons to last year's Taken.

While trying to solve his daughter's murder, an aging detective (Mel Gibson) stumbles into a vast corporate and government conspiracy, mucking things up enough for the power players to call in a high-priced clean-up man (Ray Winstone).

The driving force is Gibson, in a lead role for the first time since 2002's Signs. His features lend themselves perfectly to an emotionally stunted man dealing with dueling swells of grief and rage.

This isn't really anything new for Gibson, who's been playing characters out for vengeance since Mad Max.

But Edge of Darkness does a great job of illustrating why he keeps coming back to these types of damaged, possessed men.

The only real misstep in the film is Gibson's Boston accent, which slips freely between a Good Will Hunting caricature and completely nonexistent. And the screen could've benefited from a bit more time with Winstone's mysterious fixer, but what scenes he does occupy are some of the best in the movie.

• For a trailer of Edge of Darkness, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies.

Bridges real deal

Crazy Heart

Director: Scott Cooper
Stars: Jeff Bridges, Maggie Gyllenhaal
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●½

REVIEW In some not too far-fetched parallel universe, Jeff Bridges really might be living the life of a boozy country singer.

Bridges seems like the real thing in Crazy Heart, rasping out songs in the comfortable remnants of a whiskey-and-tobacco-seared voice that you might swear you've heard on a hundred jukeboxes.

It's not a great singing voice, but it's soulful, and Bridges matches it with one of the finest performances of his career, just playing the hell out of this guy whose self-abuse has carried him to a precipice where he either leaps into the pit or turns back and cleans up.

Academy Awards buzz is swirling around Bridges, nominated four times previously without a win. Crazy Heart feels like a potential Oscar winner for Bridges, who has a nice good-luck charm tagging along in co-star Robert Duvall, the 1983 best-actor winner for 1983's Tender Mercies, another story of a downtrodden country singer.

Adapted by first-time director Scott Cooper from Thomas Cobb's novel, the film casts Bridges as Bad Blake, an apt name for this wreck of a musician who has spoiled his many marriages, his career, his liver and lungs — pretty much everything a man can ruin.

His audiences are small but adoring, even when he's so drunk he has to dart offstage to throw up in a trash can in a back alley, leaving the backup musicians to perform the song he's just dedicated to a wide-eyed fan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

James McAvoy, left, and Paul Giamatti star in The Last Station.

Humanity lifts Station

The Last **Station**

Director: Michael Hoffman
Stars: Christopher Plummer, Helen Mirren, James McAvoy
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●½

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW The Last Station is about revered Russian author Leo Tolstoy (War And Peace), but anyone concerned that they'll need a thorough understanding of his lengthy texts to appreciate the movie needn't worry.

This isn't a dry academic study of Tolstoy's work, but a film about romance both young and old, told with a gentle and often surprising sense of humour.

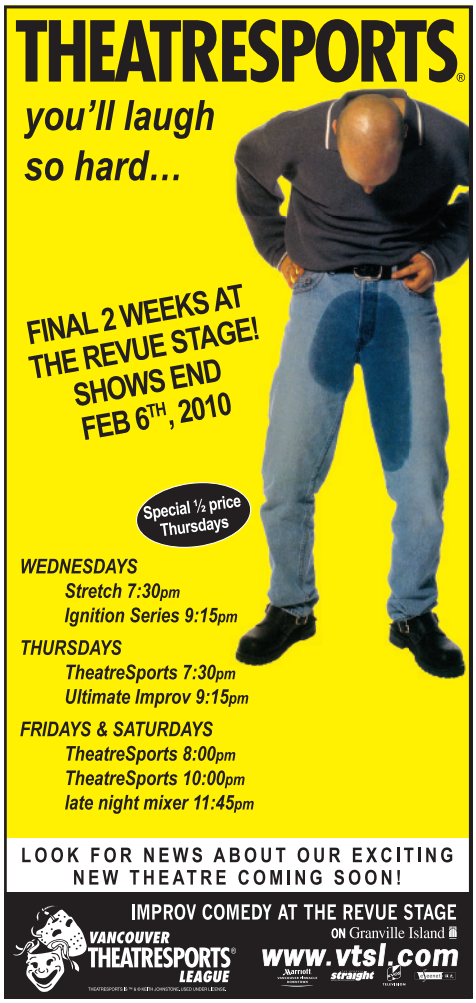
It's a relatable human comedy that should appeal to anyone who appreciates clever writing, careful characterization, and exceptional acting.

The film takes place at Leo Tolstoy's estate during the final days of his life. The author (Christopher Plummer) faces the difficult decision of whether to leave the rights to his life's work as an inheritance to his family or to the people in keeping with his political beliefs.

A battle rages between Tolstoy's wife Sofia (Helen Mirren) and his advisor Vladimir Chertkov (a hilarious Paul Giamatti).

But despite this historical backdrop, the film is primarily a study of the long and loving relationship between Tolstoy and Sophia.

Writer/director Michael Hoffman fills his film with gentle humour and some intriguing observations about human nature.



Hoult joins Mad Max cast

As he gears up to shoot the film this summer, George Miller is adding more names to his Mad Max sequel Fury Road. And top of his list? A Single Man star Nicholas Hoult. EMPIREONLINE.COM

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Buscemi's big gamble

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News

Since his landmark role in the Coen Brothers' 1996 masterpiece, Fargo, Steve Buscemi has made a career of playing ill-fated underdogs. As executive producer and lead actor in his latest project, St. John of Las Vegas, that persona hasn't changed much, but Buscemi found that joy comes from working with first-time directors, like this project's Hue Rhodes.

Steve Buscemi stars in St. John of Las Vegas.

Q Your character in St. John is a gambler. You play the slots much?

A No. I'm not really. I'm too cheap. In order to win big you have to bet big.

I'm just not willing to do that. It's fun to play a little black jack or roulette but no, I feel like life is enough of a gamble.

Q You've mentioned you like working with first-time directors, but they must make a lot of rookie mistakes. Why work with them?

A It kind of brings you back to your own roots, to feel like what it is to start new again. I like having that fresh perspective of someone who is really discovering things and experimenting and has a certain kind of enthusiasm that you really only get with first-timers.

Q Do you find there's a common thread in all the characters you've portrayed?

A I mean, I like playing guys who have problems and are struggling.

I like material that has humor in it. Other than the fact that they're all played by me, I don't know that there are other common threads.

Q What's the best advice you've ever been given?

A When I was preparing to direct the first film I did, Trees Lounge a cinematographer friend of mine said to let people do their jobs.

I thought that was a really great piece of advice because when you let people do their jobs, they really give so much more of themselves and it gives you a greater choice as a director.

• St. John of Las Vegas opens next Friday.

It's La Dolce vapid

When In Rome
Director: Mark Steven Johnson
Stars: Kristen Bell, Josh Duhamel
Classification: PG
Rating: ½

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW When in Rome, the saying goes, do as the Romans do. But Mark Steven Johnson's comedy seems content merely to ape the behaviour of a zillion light romantic farces before it. The idea of an uptight career woman (in this case, Veronica Mars' Kristen Bell) letting her hair down in the face of true love is at least as old — and dusty — as the Colosseum.

Ah, but there's a magic-realist twist: Pulling bridesmaid duty at her sister's wedding in the old country, Bell meets a dashing dude (Josh Duhamel), gets miffed when she sees him with another woman, does a drunken Dolce Vita style vamp in a piazza fountain and plucks out five coins, invoking the wrath of some ancient love god — or hack screenwriters — and turning their original owners into comically love-struck stalker-suitors (a motley quartet numbering John Heder, Danny DeVito, Will Arnett and Dax Sheppard, the latter in amusing Zoolander-lite mode).

As premises go, this falls somewhere between "strained" and "really silly," but what's really odd about When in Rome is its uncertainty of tone. One the one hand, Johnson seems to be going for a gentle, fairy-tale atmosphere — which is appropriate since the film has been produced by Disney — but there are also too many wink-wink innuendoes for a family audience. Johnson also attempts some weak hipster pandering by putting Heder in a scene with his Napoleon Dynamite sidekick Efren Ramirez (a.k.a. Pedro).

• For a trailer of When In Rome, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies.

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Poltergeist star dies at 76

Zelda Rubinstein, the 4-foot-3-inch character actor best known as Tangina, the psychic who tries to calm a family inhabiting a haunted house in the 1982 horror film Poltergeist, has died. She was 76. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

When in Rome ...

According to Italian director Federico Fellini, "Rome is the most wonderful movie set in the world."

A quick IMDB check reveals thousands of movies shot in the ancient city — everything from forgettable fare like The Exorcism of Baby Doll to classics like The Bicycle Thief. The latest movie to use the Eternal City as a backdrop is When in Rome, a new Kristen Bell rom com opening this weekend.

The most famous Rome scenes in cinema are arguably Gregory Peck teasing Roman Holiday's Audrey Hepburn by putting his hand in the Mouth of Truth, which purportedly bites off the hands of liars, and La Dolce Vita's iconic image of Anita Ekberg standing in the Trevi Fountain but for my lira the famous last scene of Fellini's Roma is the most spectacular.

The sight of a gang of motorcyclists driving through the city, past such landmarks as the Colosseum, the Capitoline Museum and the Forum, is breathtaking. Actress Claudia Ruspoli says it was an eye opener for Italians as well.

"Rome used to be a dark city; the monuments unlit," she said. "When Fellini shot Roma that summer, the monuments were all lit and we saw them at night for the first time. Beautiful!"

A grittier vision of Rome appears in Roberto Rossellini's Rome, Open City. Mixing documentary footage of German troops on Rome's streets with a fictionalized story of Italian resisters on the lam from the Gestapo Rossellini created a new film genre — Italian neo-realism — and by moving the camera outside studio walls, using real locations, available light and nonprofessional actors, provides a real life glimpse of war ravaged Rome.

More polished than Rome, Open City is Vittorio De Sica's Bicycle Thief. It's still neorealist, but where Rossellini struggled to cobble together bits of film stock to complete his film, resulting in an uneven look, Bicycle Thief is beautifully photographed. The story of a poor man searching for the person who stole his bike plays like a walking tour of late 1940s Rome.

Since then hundreds of films have shot on the streets of Rome and while the city has been kind to the movies, the movies have also been kind to Rome.

Patrizia Prestipino, head of Rome's provincial department of tourism views any film set in Italy as "free advertising" and notes that the release of movies like Angels and Demons has created a new industry in the country — movie tourism.

Richard Crouse's Movie Show can be seen every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. on the E! Channel; mrchaos33@hotmail.com.

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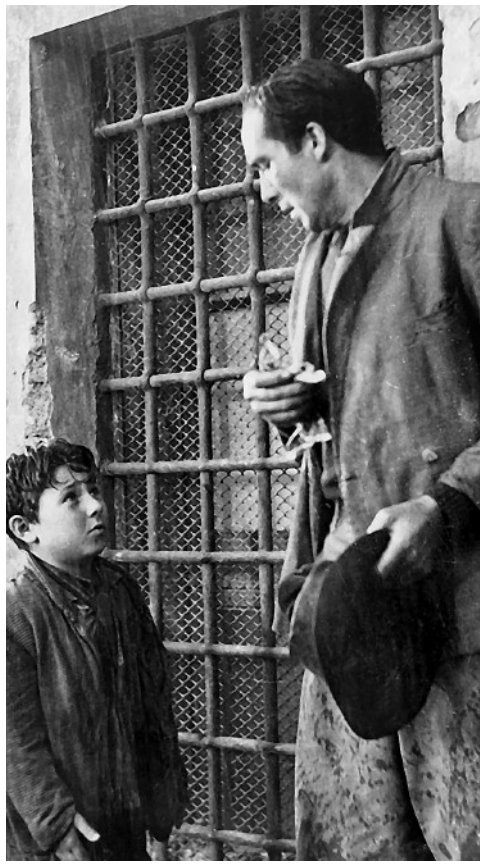
Will ARNETT Jon HEDER Dax SHEPARD with Danny DeVITO and Anjelica HUSTON
when IN ROME
TOUCHSTONE PICTURES PRESENTS A GARY FOSTER PRODUCTION A MARK STEVEN JOHNSON FILM "WHEN IN ROME" KRISTEN BELL JOSH DUHAMEL WILL ARNETT JON HEDER DAX SHEPARD WITH DANNY DEVITO AND ANJELICA HUSTON MUSIC SUPERVISOR DAVE JORDAN MUSIC BY CHRISTOPHER YOUNG COSTUME DESIGNER SARAH EDWARDS FILM EDITOR ANDREW MARCUS RYAN FOLSEY PRODUCTION DESIGNER KIRK M. PETRUCCELLI DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN BAILEY, ASC EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MINDY FARRELL STEVEN ROFFER EZRA SWERDLOW WRITTEN BY DAVID DIAMOND & DAVID WEISSMAN
PRODUCED BY GARY FOSTER MARK STEVEN JOHNSON ANDREW PANAY DIRECTED BY MARK STEVEN JOHNSON
Touchstone Pictures
WhenInRome-TheMovie.com
CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/WaltDisneyStudiosCanada
STARTS TODAY
For Theatres and Showtimes: Check local listings



Vittorio De Sica's neorealist classic Bicycle Thief plays like a walking tour of 1940s Rome.

Cineplex | Empire | AMC | Alliance Atlantis | ATNY | Independent

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 26 TO THURS., FEB. 5. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

VANCOUVER

DUNBAR THEATRE
4555 Dunbar Street, 604-222-2991

Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Thu 9:30
The Spy Next Door (PG) Sat-Sun 4:15
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 7

FIFTH AVENUE CINEMAS
2110 Burrard Street, 604-734-7469

Crazy Heart (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:7:10-9:35
Genius Within: The Inner Life of Glenn Gould (STC) Thu 7
Invictus (PG) Fri-Wed 1-3:45-6:40-9:15 Thu 1-3:45-9:15
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:15-6:50-9:20
The Last Station (14A) Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:20-9:45
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:30-7-9:25

GRANVILLE
855 Granville St., 604-684-4000

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Sat-Sun 1:25-4:15
The Blind Side (PG) Fri 6:45-9:35 Sat-Sun 1:05-3:55-6:45-9:35 Mon-Thu 5:35-8:25
Broken Embraces (14A) Fri 6:50-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:10-4-6:50-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:30
Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG) Fri-Sun 9:50 Mon-Thu 8:05
An Education (PG) Fri-Sun 7-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:10
Fantastic Mr. Fox (G) Sat 1:30-4:20 Sun 1:30
Invictus (PG) Fri 6:40-9:30 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:20
Leap Year (PG) Fri 7:05-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:05-7:05-9:25 Mon-Thu 5:55-8:15
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri 7:10 Sat 1:20-4:10-7:10 Sun 1:20-4:10 Mon-Thu 6
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 6:55-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:35
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) No Passes Sun 5

HOLLYWOOD THEATRE
3123 W. Broadway, 604-738-3211
hollywoodtheatre.ca

Law Abiding Citizen (14A) Fri-Sat 9:25 Sun 3:25-9:25 Mon-Thu 9:25
A Serious Man (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat 4:30-7:30 Sun 1:30-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30

OAKRIDGE
650 West 41st Ave., 604-263-1944

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1:15-3:45
The Book of Eli (14A) DTS Digital Fri-Sun 7-9:55 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5:15-8:15
Sherlock Holmes (PG) DTS Digital Fri 6:50-9:45 DTS Digital Sat-Sun 1-3:55-6:50-9:45 DTS Digital Mon-Thu 5-8
When in Rome (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 7:10-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7:10-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30-8:30

PACIFIC CINÉMATHÈQUE
1131 Howe Street, 604-688-3456
cinematheque.bc.ca

4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days (STC) Fri 9:10 Sat 7 Sun 9:10
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
Police, Adjective (G) Fri 7 Sat 4:30-9:10 Sun 7 Mon 9:10 Wed 7 Thu 9:10
Russian Ark (G) Thu 7:15
Wendy and Lucy (PG) Mon 7:15 Wed 9:10

PARK THEATRE
3440 Cambie Street, 604-876-2747

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 3-7-10:15 Sat-Sun 12-3-7-10:15 Mon-Wed 3-7-10:15 Thu 3-10:15
A Matter of Size (STC) Thu 7

RIDGE THEATRE
3131 Arbutus Street, 604-738-6311

As You Like It (STC) A.M. Sat 10
The Young Victoria (G) Fri 4-7-9:10 Sat 1:30-4-7-9:10 Sun 1:30-4-7 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:10

RIO ON BROADWAY
1660 E. Broadway, 604-878-Film
riotheatre.ca

Avatar (14A) Fri 7 Sun 3:15-7 Mon-Thu 7
Black History in Film Festival 2010 (STC) Sat 1
The Changeling (STC) Fri
The Shining (STC) Fri 12

SCOTIABANK THEATRE VANCOUVER
900 Burrard St., 604-630-1407

Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 11:15-11:45-3:3-30-6:40-7:10-10:30-10:50 Mon-Thu 11:30-11:45-3-3:30-6:40-7:10-10:30-10:50
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:50-7:05-10:10
Daybreakers (18A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-7:40-10:20
Edge of Darkness (14A) No Passes Fri 12:20-3:45-7:30-10:40 No Passes Sat 1-3:45-7:30-10:40 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:20-3:45-7:30-10:40
Legion (14A) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:20-10
Nation: National Theatre (STC) Sat 10
A Prairie Home Companion: Live in HD (STC) Thu 7:30
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Wed 12-3:20-7-10:15 Thu 12-3:20-10:15
A Single Man (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:10-6:30-9:20
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-6:50-9:45

TINSELTOWN
International Village, 88 West Pender, 3rd floor, 604-806-0799

Crazy Heart (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:55-4:35-7:20-10:05
Creation (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 2:40-5:15-7:50-10:20
Extraordinary Measures (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 7:15-9:45
High Life (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:35-3:45-5:50-7:55-10:10
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Fri-Thu 2-4:50-7:40-10:25
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Thu 2:15-5:7:45-10:35
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Nine (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:25-7:10-10
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Thu 2:10-4:40
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Thu 12
Tooth Fairy (G) No Passes Fri 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:25-9:55 No Passes Sat-Sun 2:30-4:55-7:25-9:55 No Passes Mon 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:25-9:55 No Passes Tue 2:30-4:55-7:25-9:55 No Passes Wed-Thu 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:25-9:55
When in Rome (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 12:10-2:25-4:45-7:05-9:25 No Passes Thu 12:10-2:25-4:45-7:05
Youth in Revolt (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:50-3:05-5:20-7:35-9:50

VANCITY THEATRE
Vancouver International Film Centre
1181 Seymour Street, 604-683-Film

Sparx FX Film Festival (STC) Fri-Sun

VAN EAST CINEMA
2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313

Daybreakers (18A) Fri-Thu 9:15
Up in the Air (PG) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 4:45-7 Mon-Thu 7

NORTH SHORE

ESPLANADE 6
200 West Esplanade, 604-983-2762

The Book of Eli (14A) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:20
Edge of Darkness (14A) No Passes Fri 6:45-9:55 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:45-3:20-6:45-9:55 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:45-9:55
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri 7:20-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-7:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:45
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 7-9:50 Sat-Sun 1-4-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 7-9:50
Up in the Air (PG) Fri 7:30-10 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 7:30-10
When in Rome (G) No Passes Fri 7:15-9:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:20-3:50-7:15-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:15-9:30

PARK & TILFORD
333 Brooksbank Ave., 604-985-3911

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Sat-Sun 12:50
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri 6:40-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:3:20-6:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:40-10:10
Crazy Heart (PG) Fri 7:20-10 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:45-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 7:20-10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
It's Complicated (PG) Fri 6:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:40
Legion (14A) Fri 7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:15-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri 6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 3:40-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50
Nation: National Theatre (STC) Sat 10
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri 7-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-7-9:35 Mon-Thu 7-9:35 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

RICHMOND

RICHMOND CENTRE 6
6551 #3 Road, 604-273-7173

Avatar (14A) Fri 3:25-6:50-10:15 Sat 12-3:25-6:50-10:15 Sun 12-3:25-6:50 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:45
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Sat 3:45-10 Sun 3:45 Mon-Thu 4:15
Edge of Darkness (14A) No Passes Fri 3:40-7:20-10:05 No Passes Sat 12:05-3:40-7:20-10:05 No Passes Sun 12:05-3:40-7:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:30-7:20
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri 3:50-7:10-9:50 Sat 12:20-3:50-7:10-9:50 Sun 12:20-3:50-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:10
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri 7:05 Sat-Sun 12:15-7:05 Mon-Thu 7:05
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri 3:55-7:15-9:40 Sat 12:25-3:55-7:15-9:40 Sun 12:25-3:55-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:15
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri 3:35-7-9:30 Sat 12:10-3:35-7-9:30 Sun 12:10-3:35-7 Mon-Thu 4:20-7

SILVERCITY RIVERPORT
14211 Entertainment Way, 604-272-7280

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-6:40
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 11-1:30-2:40-5:30-6:35-9:30-10:35
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri-Sat 10-1:20-4:45-8:10-11:30 Sun-Thu 11:30-3-6:30-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Wed 11:15-2:45-6:15-9:35 Thu 2:45-6:15-9:35
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-4-7:25-9:15-10:20
Daybreakers (18A) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:50-7:45-10:40 Sun 1:45-4:50-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:50-7:45-10:40
Edge of Darkness (14A) No Passes Fri-Wed 1:05-4:20-7:30-10:30 No Passes Thu 11:30-4:45-7:30-10:30
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Wed 1:10-4:10-7:15-10:25 Thu 1:05-4:05-7:15-10:25
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-6:55-10:05
Leap Year (PG) Fri-Sat 11:35-3:40-7:20-10:15 Sun 11:35-7:20-10:15 Mon-Thu 11:35-3:40-7:20-10:15
Legion (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7:05-9:50
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:40-7:10-10:35
Nation: National Theatre (STC) Sat 10
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 11:45-2:30
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 11:20-3-6:50-10:10
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Thu 12-3:30-6:45-9:45
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Wed 12:55-4:15-7:15-9:55 Thu 4:15-7:15-9:55 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 11:50-3:20-6:50-10:10
Veer (14A) Fri-Thu 5:35-9:30
When in Rome (G) No Passes Fri-Wed 1-3:45-7:10 No Passes Thu 3:45-7:10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Sun 5

BURNABY

DOLPHIN CINEMAS
4555 E. Hastings St., 604-293-0332

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Sat-Sun 1-3-5
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 7-9:20
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Thu 7-9
The Princess and the Frog (G) Sat-Sun 1-3-5

SILVERCITY METROPOLIS
4700 Kingsway Ave., 604-435-7474

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 11:40-2-4:20
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 11:30-11:45-3-3:20-6:30-7:10-10:15-10:45
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Sat 12:25-3:40-7:20-10:25 Sun 12:25-7:20-10:25 Mon-Thu 12:25-3:40-7:20-10:25
Daybreakers (18A) Fri-Thu 7:40-10:35
Edge of Darkness (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:25-7:05-10:30
Legion (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:45-7:15-10:10
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:50-10:20
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Sat 12:15-3:35-7:30-10:40 Sun 12:15-3:35-10:40 Mon-Wed 12:15-3:35-7:30-10:40 Thu 12:15-3:35-10:40
When in Rome (G) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:35-1:50-4:10-6:45-9:35
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Sun 5

STATION SQUARE
220-6200 McKay Ave., 604-434-7711

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 4-6:55-9:55 Sat 1-4-6:55-9:55 Sun 1-4-6:55 Mon-Thu 4-6:55
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri 4:15-7:15-10:15 Sat 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:15
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Sat 7:05-10:05 Sun-Thu 7:05
Leap Year (PG) Fri 4:20-7:20-10:20 Sat 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri 4:05-7:05-10:05 Sat 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05 Sun 1:05-4:05-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:05
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri 4:25-7:25-10:25 Sat 1:25-4:25-7:25-10:25 Sun 1:25-4:25-7:25 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:25
Up in the Air (PG) Fri 4:10-7:10-10:10 Sat 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10

NEW WEST/ COQUITLAM

SILVERCITY COQUITLAM
170 Schoolhouse Street, 604-523-2911

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 12:2:25-4:55-7:20
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 11:45-2-3:45-6:15-7:45-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sat 11:50-3:25-6:45-10:10 Sun 11:50-3:25-6:55-10:10 Mon-Thu 11:50-3:25-6:45-10:10
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Thu 11:40-2:55-7:15-10:05
Daybreakers (18A) Fri-Thu 10:25
Edge of Darkness (14A) No Passes Fri 12:30-3:25-7:35-10:40 No Passes Sat 12:30-3:55-7:35-10:40 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:30-3:25-7:35-10:40
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:35-7:05-9:55
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Fri-Thu 10:30
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-7:25-10:20
Leap Year (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:40-6:45-9:50
Legion (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:30-7:10-10:20
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 12:10-3:15-6:50-10:05
Nation: National Theatre (STC) Sat 10
Nine (PG) Fri-Sat 1:15-4:10-7:50-10:40 Sun 12:05-7:50-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:50-10:40
A Prairie Home Companion: Live in HD (STC) Thu 7:30
Precious: Based on the Novel ``Push'' by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Tue 11:45-3-7:20-10:15 Wed 3:50-7:20-10:15 Thu 11:45-3-7:20-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 11:30-2-4:30-7:15
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-4-7:30-10:35
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:45-6:55-9:55
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-4:05-7:35-10:25
When in Rome (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 11:45-2:30-5-7:25-9:45 No Passes Wed 4:15-7:25-9:45 No Passes Thu 11:45-2:30-5-7:25-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Sun 5
Youth in Revolt (14A) Fri-Sat 1:10-3:55-6:50-9:45 Sun 1:10-3:55-6:50-9:45 Mon-Wed 1:10-3:55-6:50-9:45 Thu 1:10-3:55-9:45

SURREY/WHITE ROCK/LANGLEY

CLOVA
5732-176th St., Surrey, 604-541-9527

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Sat-Sun 1:30
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 9:15
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Thu 7

HOLLYWOOD 3 CINEMA
7125-138th Street, Surrey, 604-592-4441

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 6:50 Sat-Sun 12-6:50 Mon-Thu 6:50
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Thu 4:45-8:55
Leap Year (PG) Fri 8:45 Sat-Sun 2:30-8:45 Mon-Thu 8:45
Nine (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 12-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 5
Planet 51 (G) Fri-Thu 4:40
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:30-7 Mon-Thu 7
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Sat-Sun 2:30
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Thu 9:15

STRAWBERRY HILL GRANDE
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey, 604-501-9400

3 Idiots (PG) Fri-Sat 12:10-4:30-8:35 Sun 12:10-8:35 Mon-Thu 12:10-4:30-8:35
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:40
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Thu 11:45-3:20-7:10-9:35
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-4-7:15-10:15
Edge of Darkness (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-7:25-10:30
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Thu 7:30-10:10
Legion (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:05-7:35-10:25
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:40-7:05-10:05
Nation: National Theatre (STC) Sat 10
Rann (STC) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:30-6:45-10
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Thu 7:20-10:20
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:15
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Tue 1:30-4:25-7:10-9:40 Wed 4:25-7:10-9:40 Thu 1:30-4:25-7:10-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Veer (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-4:20-8
When in Rome (G) No Passes Fri-Tue 11:55-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45 No Passes Wed 4:45-7:15-9:45 No Passes Thu 11:55-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Sun 5

STUDIO 12 GUILDFORD
15051-101st Ave, Surrey, 604-581-1176

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:45-4:30-6:55
Avatar 3D (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-3:30-5:30-7:30-9:30
The Book of Eli (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:25-7:20-10:10
Edge of Darkness (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:55-6:50-9:50
Leap Year (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:40
Legion (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:25-9:55 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:25-9:55
The Lovely Bones (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10
Tooth Fairy (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:35
Veer (14A) Dolby Stereo Digital, Sub-Titled, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9
When in Rome (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:10-9:45
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Digital Presentation, Stadium Seating Sun 5

RIALTO
1732-152nd Street, White Rock, 604-541-9527, criterontheatres.com

It's Complicated (PG) Fri 7-9:20 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:20 Mon-Thu 7-9:20
Up in the Air (PG) Fri 7:15-9:25 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:15-9:25 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:25

CRITERION 4 WHITE ROCK
2381 King George Highway, 604-531-7456, criterionttheatres.com

Edge of Darkness (14A) Fri 7:10-9:35 Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10-9:35 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:35
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri 7-9:25 Sat-Sun 2-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 7-9:25
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri 7:20-9:20 Sat-Sun 2:20-7:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:20
When in Rome (G) Fri 7:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 2:30-7:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:30

COLOSSUS LANGLEY
20090-91A Ave, Langley, 604-513-8747

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Fri-Sun 1:05-4:05-6:40 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:40
Avatar 3D (14A) Fri-Sun 11-11:45-2:30-3:20-6:15-7:10-10:15-10:45 Mon-Thu 4:30-5:30-9:10
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (14A) Fri-Sun 11:30-3-6:30-10 Mon-Thu 3:30-7:10:30
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3:50-7:10-10:15 Mon-Tue 3:50-7:10-10:15 Wed 7:10-10:15 Thu 3:50-7:10-10:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
The Book of Eli (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:45-7:10-10:05 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:10:05
Daybreakers (18A) Fri-Sat 1-4:10-7:25-10:05 Sun 1-7:25-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:25-10:05
Edge of Darkness (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:55-4:05-7:20-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:05-7:20-10:20
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:35-7:05-10 Mon-Tue 3:35-7:05-10 Wed 7:05-10 Thu 3:35-7:05-10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Fri-Thu 9:40
It's Complicated (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:45-6:50-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:50-9:55
Leap Year (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-4:25-7:35-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:35-10:25
Legion (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:40-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 3:40-7:30-10:10
The Lovely Bones (PG) Fri-Sun 11:55-3:30-6:55-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:55-10:20
Nation: National Theatre (STC) Sat 10
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:55 Mon-Thu 3:55
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:40-7:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:40-7:15-10:30
The Spy Next Door (PG) Fri-Sun 12:05-4:15-7:20-10:10 Mon-Tue 4:15-7:20-10:10 Wed 4:15-10:10 Thu 4:15-7:20-10:10
Tooth Fairy (G) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:50-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:10-9:45
Up in the Air (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-4:20-7:25-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:25-10:25
When in Rome (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:50-2:15-4:40-7:15-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:40-7:15-10
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Sun 5
Youth in Revolt (14A) Fri-Sat 7:30-10:30 Sun 10:30 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:30

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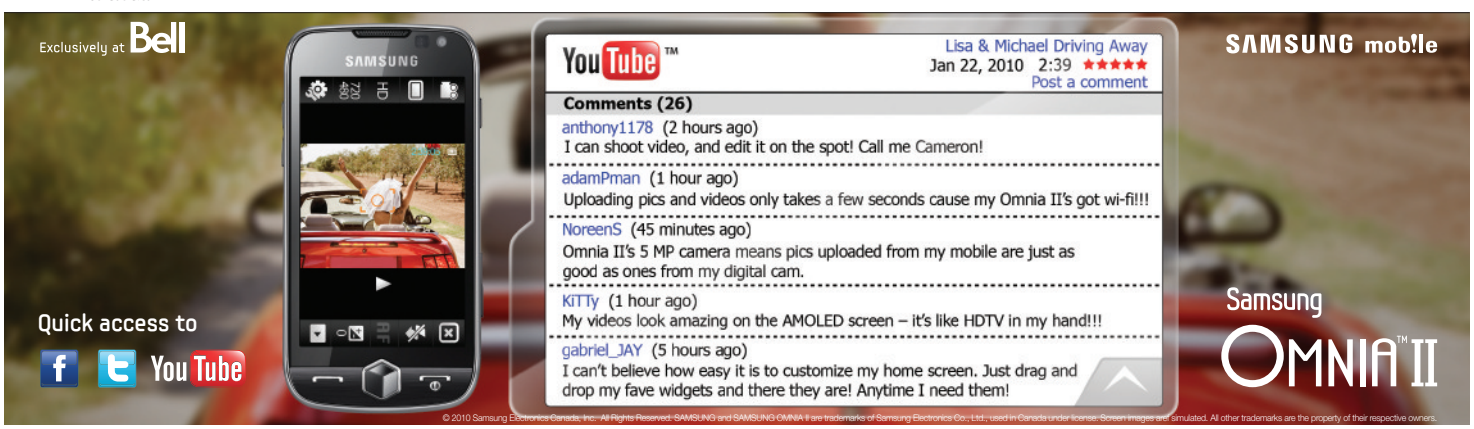
Listings not available at press time.



Top albums on the Billboard 200

1. Hope For Haiti Now, Various Artists; 2. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 3. The Fame, Lady Gaga; 4. Transference, Spoon; 5. 2010 Grammy Nominees, Various Artists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Music

The death of romance

Sour relationships colour new album from Los Campesinos!

CAM LINDSAY
for Metro Canada

Finding the perfect Valentine's gift for the one you love can be a difficult undertaking. Welsh indie troupe Los Campesinos! might not have the answer, however, if you're looking for the exact opposite, well, they have "the perfect late Valentine's gift for the one you loathe" (as advertised on their blog).

Romance Is Boring is the new album from Los Campesinos!

The seven-piece are set to release Romance Is Boring, the title track from their new album, as a single the day after Valentine's Day.

"The opportunity to put it out so close to Valentine's was far too good an opportunity to miss," admits frontman Gareth Campesinos!. "(But) it wasn't written with Valentine's in mind. I actually like Valentine's if I'm being honest, I guess. It's probably the day of the year where it's most acceptable to get blind drunk and make an ill-advised declaration of love, and that's my specialty."

On the band's third album, Gareth hits his literary stride with those signature declarations and biting slogans, but also digs deeper to present a more complicated take on soured relationships and mortality. You can practically call him an expert.

"There have been plenty of those subjects over the past couple of records, but perhaps on this occasion it's a more focused vision," he explains. "I'm 24 years old, so over the past four years being in the band I've had some of my most formative experiences, since leaving the cradle of full-time education. I've changed untold amounts as a person, and for better, for worse, this is where I'm at now."

After the double shot of 2008's Hold On Now, Youngster… and We Are Beautiful, We Are Doomed, Romance Is Boring finds the band even more fertile sonically. The songs sound bigger, not to mention more intricate, having expanded their scrappy, glockenspiel-assisted lo-fi with spasmodic noise eruptions (Plan A), angular waltzing (Who Fell Asleep In) and moody electronics

Gareth has gone on the record to call it "the best record we've made by a massive stretch," but he's quick to point out how it's the band's growth that makes such a bold statement stick.

"I really like the previous two," he says with assurance. "There are issues I have with WAB, WAD, but I still think it holds up. And HON, Y … reminds me of so many overwhelming and exciting times, it just doesn't seem like me anymore. Romance Is Boring makes use of all the lessons, life and musical, that we've learnt. I guess we know how we want a Los Campesinos! album to sound now."

The new Apple iPad was unveiled earlier this week.

How mobile devices changed the world

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

With all the hoopla surrounding Apple this week, I thought it might be fun to look back at some of the portable media devices that rocked our world.

The Regency TR-1 (1954): At $50, it was hideously expensive for its time, but those who could afford it need never share that giant console radio in the living room with mom and dad. Teenagers were free to take their own music — this new thing called "rock 'n' roll" — with them everywhere. As a result, the TR-1 and its descendents allowed rock to launch its social, economic, artistic, political and sexual revolution.

The 8-Track (1964): Jointly developed by Ford, GM, Motorola, AMPEX and the guy behind the Lear Jet company, the 8-track meant that music fans no longer had to wait for their favourite songs to come on the radio.

The Cassette (1964): Invented at the same time, the cassette needed for tape formulations to improve to the point where it sounded as good as — and eventually better than — 8-tracks. And because it was much easier to transfer music from records to cassettes, the mixtape was born. Record labels began freaking out over home taping.

The Sony Walkman TPS-L2 (1979): Look around. See all those people who have isolated themselves from the rest of humanity by plugging into some kind of device that envelopes them in their own private bubble of sound? Before the Walkman, this kind of behavior was considered to be highly antisocial. That's why the TPS-L2 originally came with two headphone jacks.

The Diamond Multimedia Rio PMP300 (1998): Not the first MP3 player — that distinction goes to the MP3 Man from a Korean company called Sae-Han — but the one that forced the courts in America to rule that such devices were, in fact, legal. Where might we be had those judges ruled the other way?

The iPod (2001): When Steve Jobs returned to Apple, he decreed that a big part of the company's future was in something he called the "digital hub," with the perfect portable music device at its core. Some 225 million units later…

The Future (2010-?): Who knows? If there's one thing we've learned since the TR-1, it's not the device itself that's important, but what the device allows us to do and the behaviors that result. Continue to expect many unintended and unforeseen consequences.

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

Women often share the gift of their experience and knowledge with generations that follow. Information about osteoporosis and bone health is a gift worth sharing. Find out how you can participate in a study that may help new generations fight osteoporosis.

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Smash-hit smooch
Madonna and Britney Spears' kiss at the MTV Video Music Awards has been voted the most famous smooch of the last decade, according to the poll conducted by U.K. department store Selfridges. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Going Out

Lost art of love letters

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

Despite producing the Valentine-tinged TV special Love Letters, Leah Pinsent doesn't have a romantic story surrounding her first meeting with her partner — fellow actor Peter Keleghan.

"No. We weren't star-crossed lovers or anything. It took some time," says Pinsent, who first met Keleghan when they were both starring on the CBC comedy Made In Canada in Halifax.

"I think it was fourth season in. It was a crazy love once it got started but we were both married at the start."

Still — nine years in — it seems to be working out. So much so, the acting pair have teamed up for Love Letters — a meditation on generational love featuring excerpts from A.R. Gurney's play about lovers who correspond soley through letters.

The excerpts are performed not only by Pinsent and Keleghan, but additional real life acting couples like Colin Mochrie (Whose Line Is It Anyway) and Deb McGrath (Little Mosque on the Prairie), Carlo Rota (24) and Nazneen Contractor (The Border), and Samantha Bee and Jason Jones (The Daily Show). The host is Leah's dad Gordon Pinsent.

In between excerpts from the play, the couples talk about their curious romantic lives as working actors/lovers.

PHOTO PROVIDED

Celebrity couple Leah Pinsent and Peter Keleghan star in Love Letters airing Sunday on CBC Television.

"I'd seen When Harry Met Sally and I loved the parts where the real couples talk about their relationships, so we wanted to do that," says Pinsent with a laugh. "I'm just happy they're since we filmed it, our couples are all still together."

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 iPad

GADGET The one-button, keyboard-free slab of pure cool is being billed as a cross between a laptop and a smartphone, offering the best of both worlds. Apple says the gadget will go on sale in 60 days but no word from Canadian data carriers yet.

2 52nd Grammy Awards

SHOW This year, the women rule. Lady Gaga, Beyonce and Taylor Swift hold 23 nominations among them. Our money is on Swift, who has dominated the charts for two straight years with her country-tinged hits, but then Kanye West might have other plans. It airs Sunday on Global and CBS.

3 Lost season premiere

TV The super-twisty secrets of the crash-survivors saga will be revealed when the ABC series returns for one last time. The creators have promised Season 6 will be it, the dizzying flashbacks will be kept to a minimum and there will be plenty of bombshells. Premieres Tuesday on CTV.

4 Rebirth: Lil Wayne

ALBUM Give Weezy a bluegrass tune and he'll Auto-Tune it to kingdom come. Thankfully, the rapper just sticks to good ol' rock in his much-anticipated, frequently delayed follow-up to the triple-platinum Tha Carter III. One word of caution — although the Feb. 2 release date is pretty much set in stone, don't be surprised if Wayne presses the "pause" button once again.

5 Mass Effect 2

GAME Bioware Edmonton and Montreal joined forces to deliver this sequel to the popular action role-playing game. The news sounds good so far for this sci-fi shooter — nearly 100,000 people were playing it online within hours of the game's release this week. Gaming pundits also predict that the current title will easily reach the million-selling heights of the first instalment.

6 Bright Star

DVD With Valentine's Day fast approaching, you could always set up a date with Hollywood romantic kitsch — both The Time Traveler's Wife and Love Happens will be released next week. Or you can curl up with Jane Campion's masterful Bright Star, which chronicles a doomed affair of a poet.

7 Our Man In Tehran: Robert Wright

BOOK Iran's trouble with the West, or the U.S. to be more specific, is not new. It started when Iranian students barged into the American Embassy in 1979 and took 54 hostages. Canadian professor Richard Wright goes right into the heart of the political intrigue and the role former Canadian ambassador to Iran, Ken Taylor, played in the release of several captives. This is history as gripping as any spy novel.

Mix of Six

Rumble In The Jungle

When: Jan. 30, 7 to 10 p.m.
Where: Bloedel Conservatory

The Friends of Bloedel are hosting a gala dinner under the iconic triodetic dome.

The evening includes a Tahitian fire dancer and the music of Dal Richards.

Tickets are $125 will raise funds to save the 40-year-old dome.

Laugh it Out

When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Orpheum

Shaun Majumder, Seán Cullen and Nikki Payne perform standup comedy highlighted by 'musical naughtiness,' hosted by the Barenaked Ladies' Tyler Stewart and Ed Robertson.

Tix: start at $25.

They are available at vancouver2010.com.

Beyond Eden

When: Friday & Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: Vancouver Playhouse

A musical based on an expedition led by Wilson Duff and world-acclaimed artist Bill Reid. Tix: Start at $30, available at Vancouver2010.com.

Kronos Quartet

When: Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where: 6265 Crescent Road

Kronos and Inuit vocalist Tanya Tagaq perform Nunavut. The centrepiece for the show is Tundra Songs to paint a picture of the Arctic soundscape. Tix: Start at $33, available at Vancouver2010.com.

Trailer Park Boys

When: Friday
Where: River Rock Theatre

Ricky, Julian and Bubbles perform a court-ordered puppet show about the dangers associated with drugs and alcohol live on stage. This is the real deal. Tix. $50 Info: ticketmaster.com

Nevermore: The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Edgar Allan Poe

When: Ends Feb. 6
Where: Granville Island Stage

This musical fable for adults takes theatergoers into a fantastical rendering of the Gothic dreamscape of Poe's life, revealing the psychology of the man whose haunting, darkly comic writings resonate in each of our tell-tale hearts.

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Mesnick to wed Malaney

The Bachelor's Jason Mesnick will wed Molly Malaney, whom he met on the 13th season of the show, on ABC March 17. The two-hour special will also feature Malaney, 24, going to dress fittings and planning the event. USMAGAZINE.COM

Television

Tarnished rep?

Leno poised to take back late night in March

Certainly Jay Leno would love to wake up to find that the last six months was just a nightmare.

That way, he'd be preparing another Tonight show monologue, not going on the national shrink's sofa across from Oprah Winfrey, as he was Thursday. He wouldn't have seen a photo of himself doctored to look battered on the cover of Entertainment Weekly, symbolizing television's biggest flop ever. And he wouldn't have heard the rough jokes with the serious subtext that he had sandbagged Conan O'Brien.

NBC is hoping that it all goes away, too. The network won't know until March 1 whether he's been permanently damaged or not by the disastrous decision to try him in prime time and the clumsy way he recovered his old job. March 1 is when Leno returns to late night, opposite David Letterman on CBS.

Jay Leno returns to the Tonight show March 1

"He's going to be competitive and I think his audience is going to come back over time," says Jeff Gaspin, NBC Universal Entertainment chairman.

Except for the Winfrey interview, Leno will do little talking after his 10 p.m. EST show ends Feb. 9, making way for coverage of the Winter Olympics. NBC will promote his return to late night but in a low-key fashion since it's been only a few months that it hyped his prime time show, Gaspin said.

"We're going to do it with a little humour and we're going to do it with a little wink to the audience," he said. "We know they know what's going on."

The 10 p.m. show, cancelled because affiliates complained about its low ratings, instantly transformed Leno's public image into that of a failure after a 15-year run as the king of late-night television.

Meanwhile, his Tonight show successor, Conan O'Brien, despite being a ratings failure himself, became a folk hero when he wouldn't accept NBC's plan to move his Tonight show to 12:05 a.m. EST to accommodate Leno's shortened comedy program. Leno has been vilified for taking back a job he plainly didn't want to leave in the first place, despite promising more than five years ago that he would.

Jimmy Kimmel, in a brutal appearance on Leno's own show, was asked about the best prank he had ever pulled and said: "I told a guy that five years from now, I'm going to give you my show. And then when the five years came, I gave it to him. And then I took it back almost instantly. I think he works at Fox or something now."

Critic Aaron Barnhart said Leno was half-cockroach, half-cicada, who "would do and say anything to keep his famous chin in front of the cameras."

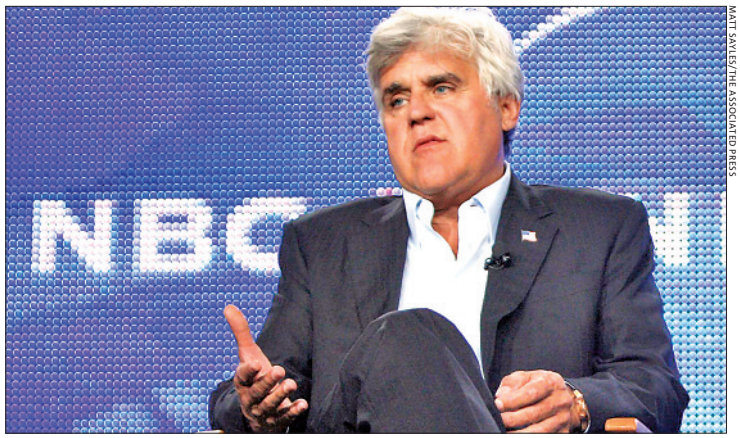
Comic writer Joe Queenan, in The Wall Street Journal, compared the late-night situation to Europe in the 1930s. Leno, he wrote, "much like Adolf Hitler, is a master at making secret demands for foreign territory and then acting like the wronged party."

It's satire, yes. But Adolf Hitler?

"Unfortunately, it got a little nasty," Gaspin said. "But I also think it was short-lived. It was of the moment and it ratchetted up and it also ratcheted down pretty quickly as well."

While Leno was in prime time, longtime rival Letterman took over as the most popular late-night comic. That crown might not be so easy to reclaim, said David Bianculli, who teaches a course in late-night television at Rowan University and is author of a new book on the Smothers Brothers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Returning Tonight show host Jay Leno has been vilified for taking back a job he plainly didn't want to leave in the first place, despite promising more than five years ago that he would.

Talk show veteran on Oprah

- Jay Leno told Oprah Winfrey on Thursday's episode of her talk show that he thinks what happened to Conan O'Brien is "unfair." Leno also says he has "regrets" that the situation wasn't handled better — but he isn't sure what he could have done differently.

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Lachey on Taking the Stage

It's like Fame — the movie that showcased the dreams and disappointments of high school performers — but in real life.

That's how Nick Lachey describes the second season of Taking the Stage, the reality TV show that follows high school students at The School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) in Cincinnati as they work to break in to the entertainment industry. The show airs Thursdays at 11 p.m. on MTV.

"It's a great kind of learning ground for anyone who wants to be in entertainment and anyone who loves performing," says Lachey, the show's executive producer. "I think the school really prepares you for what the business is all about."

Lachey, a pop singer and actor, attended the school himself and knows firsthand the how an aspiring entertainer struggles to make it. After graduating from SCPA in 1992, he formed the boy band 98 Degrees and launched a successful solo career. In 2003-2005, he starred with then-wife Jessica Simpson in the MTV reality series Newlyweds: Nick and Jessica.

Nick Lachey

Other notable SCPA alumni include Sarah Jessica Parker, Carmen Electra and Lachey's brother and 98 Degrees alum, Drew.

This season's Taking the Stage follows Tyler, now a senior at SCPA and Mia, who has been trying to get her new band off the ground since graduation. We'll also meet new students — including Adam, Emily Silber, Emily Sones, Carlton and Ian — who all try to navigate their way to fame by way of high school.

The show resonates with viewers, Lachey says. "People are attracted to good performance and seeing young people follow their dreams," he says. "I think we see some of ourselves in kids."

THE ASSOCIATED PRES

FRIDAY 1/29/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour (N)
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Access H.	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Medium "Psych" (N) (CC)		Flashpoint "The Fortress"		CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Dollhouse (Series Finale) (N)		Shark Tank (N) (CC)		NUMB3RS "Devil Girl" (N)		News
	256	389	12 VI	Degrassi	TMZ (N)	Law & Order (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Murdoch Mysteries		Supernanny (N) (CC)		Mantracker (CC) (DVS)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	Smallville "Disciple" (N)		Smallville "Legion" (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Ghost Whisperer (N) (CC)		Medium "Psych" (N) (CC)		NUMB3RS "Devil Girl" (N)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Law & Order (CC)		Dateline NBC (CC)		The Jay Leno Show (N)		KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Supernanny (N) (CC)		Shark Tank (N) (CC)		20/20 (N) (CC)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Dollhouse (Series Finale) (N)		Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		News	Most Wanted	Family Guy
news	502	390	23 NW	CannaBiz (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National (N)		CannaBiz (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	Best Damn Sports Show		Hockey	The Ultimate Fighter		MMA Conn	Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre	Hockey	SportsCentre	Off-Record	24/7 Jimmie	Strongman	NFL Presents	Boxing	SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	Liar Liar ★★ (1997) Jim Carrey, Maura Tierney. (CC)				That's-Weird	Fries That?	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol
	555	545	50 TEL	Batman	Wolverine	Justice	Star Wars	Futurama	King of Hill	Lord of the Rings: Fellowship of Ring		
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Red Run (N)	Bill Reid	Poirot (N) (CC)		Dalziel & Pascoe (CC)		Homeland (N) (CC)		
	575	583	20 CMT	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Cameo Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Acc'ding/Jim
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal Minds "Aftermath"		(:01) Criminal Minds "P911"		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	Miss America: Behind		What Not to Wear "Crizti"		Miss America: Behind		What Not to Wear "Chelsea"		What Not
	616	522	39 SHO	Relic Hunter (CC)		Termination Point (2007, Suspense) Jason Priestley. (CC)				Kenny vs.	Kenny	Trailer Park
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) The Longest Yard ★★ (2005) (CC)		(:40) Vegas Vacation ★ (1997, Comedy) Chevy Chase.					(:40) Seabiscuit ★★★	
	603	561	69 FN	Diners	Diners	Ramsay's Kitchen		Diners	Unwrapped	Bobby Flay	Bobby Flay	Diners
	-	-	95 AMC	(5:00) The Fugitive ★★★		AMC News	The Amityville Horror ★★ (1979) James Brolin, Margot Kidder. (CC)					Raising Cain
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:25) Affinity ★★★ (2008)		Whatever Works ★★ (2009) Larry David.			Sex and the City ★★★ (2008) Sarah Jessica Parker. (CC)			
	581	566	101 MTV	(6:30) Teen Mom (CC)		1 girl 5 gays	After Show	Buried	Teen Mom (CC)			After

SATURDAY 1/30/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	NHL Hockey Edmonton Oilers at Calgary Flames. (Subject to Blackout)					HNIC: After Hours		News	HNIC Replay
	250	321	9 CTV	W5 (N) (CC) (DVS)		Crazy Canucks (2005) Lucas Bryant, Sandy Robson. (CC)				Law & Order: SVU		CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	Variety Show of Hearts (N) (CC)								
	256	389	12 VI	New Canoe	Island Week	Kool Countdown (CC)		The Road to Avonlea		Stargate Atlantis "Sateda"		Bravo!FACT
	253	359	13 CITY	Cooking	Amazing	Music Awards		Deadly Encounter (2004) Laura Leighton. (CC) (DVS)				Crusoe
	-	-	14 CW	The Office	The Office	13 Going on 30 ★★★ (2004) Jennifer Garner, Judy Greer.				CSI: NY (CC)		CSI: Miami
	289	381	15 CBS	Paid Program	Paid Program	The Magic of Ordinary Days (2005) Keri Russell. (CC)				48 Hours Mystery (N) (CC)		KIRO 7 News
	287	379	16 NBC	Backroads	Inside Edition	Truth in Motion: Vancouver		Law & Order "Doped" (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Fortune	Jeopardy!	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Ward Family" (CC)				Castle "Ghosts" (CC)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	Two Men	Two Men	Cops (N) (PA)	Cops (CC)	America's Most Wanted		News	Most Wanted	Wanda Sykes
news	502	390	23 NW	Charles Other Mistress		National	Issue	National	Mansbridge	Charles Other Mistress		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Newsroom
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	English Premier League Soccer				The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Poker
	400	400	30 TSN	Curling	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Boxing Jesse Brinkley vs. Curtis Stevens. (Taped)				SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Stuart Little ★★★ (1999, Comedy) Geena Davis. Premiere.				Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Venture Bros.	Moral Orel
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic		Heartbeat (CC)		Midsomer Murders (CC)		Homeland (CC)		
	575	583	20 CMT	Reba	Totally	One on One-Reba McEntire		Gone Country	Gone Country	Dolly Parton: One on One		Reba
	615	520	31 A&E	Gone in Sixty	Seagal	Seagal	Seagal	(:01) Gone in Sixty Seconds ★ (2000) Nicolas Cage. Premiere. (CC)				
	521	560	34 TLC	Four Weddings (N) (CC)		What Not to Wear "Crizti"		Miss America 2010 Women compete in Las Vegas. (CC)				Weddings
	616	522	39 SHO	Slings and Arrows (CC)		Odysseus and the Isle of the Mists (2008) Arnold Vosloo.				The Heartbreak Kid ★★ (2007) Ben Stiller.		
	294	650	47 TBS	(6:00) The Replacements		(:12) Varsity Blues ★★ (1999) James Van Der Beek. (CC)				(:12) Bad News Bears ★★ (2005) (CC)		
	603	561	69 FN	Top Chef Masters (CC)		The F Word (CC)		River Cottage Treatment		Chopped "A Nori Story"		Top Chef
	-	-	95 AMC	(5:00) Space Cowboys (2000)		Behind Enemy Lines ★★ (2001, Action) Owen Wilson, Gene Hackman.					Behind Enemy Lines ★★	
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:15) A Crime ★★★ (2006)		The Brothers Bloom ★★ (2008) Rachel Weisz. Premiere.				Definitely, Maybe ★★★ (2008) (CC)		
	581	566	101 MTV	MTV Live	Movie Night	After	1 girl 5 gays	Over Bolts	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	1 girl 5 gays

SUNDAY 1/31/10

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Heartland "The Happy List"		Love Letters (N)		Just for Laughs Cupidity		CBC News: The National		News
	250	321	9 CTV	Lost "Pilot" (CC)		Lost "Final Chapter" (N)		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) Cold Case (CC)		CTV News
	252	336	11 GTV	ET Canada Red Carpet		The 52nd Annual Grammy Awards Excellence in the recording industry. (Same-day Tape) (CC)						
	256	389	12 VI	TMZ (CC)		Wedding Crashers ★★★ (2005) Owen Wilson. (CC) (DVS)				Nip/Tuck "Jenny Juggs"		New Canoe
	253	359	13 CITY	Survivorman (CC) (DVS)		Extreme Makeover: Home		Chuck (N) (CC)		Murdoch Mysteries		Crusoe
	-	-	14 CW	Boston Legal (CC)		CSI: Miami "Chain Reaction"		CSI: NY "Heart of Glass"		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	60 Minutes (N) (CC)		The 52nd Annual Grammy Awards Excellence in the recording industry. (Same-day Tape) (CC)						
	287	379	16 NBC	Dateline NBC (CC)				Saturday Night Live Presents: Sports All-Stars (N) (CC)				KING 5 News
	288	380	21 ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives (N)		(:01) Brothers & Sisters (N)		News
	290	382	23 FOX	'Til Death (N)	'Til Death (N)	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	Amer. Dad	News	Sports	House (CC)
news	502	390	23 NW	Bigger, Stronger, Faster ★★★ (2008, Documentary)				CBC News: The National		Bigger, Stronger, Faster ★★★ (2008)		
	500	500	33 CNN	Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		State of the Union		State/Union
family sports	407	419	22 RSP	Alpine Skiing		Saturday Night Poker		The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	Curling	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Tennis Australian Open, Men's Final.				SportsCentre
	552	543	25 YTV	(6:00) Nacho Libre ★★ (CC)		SpongeBob	Family Biz	Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	555	545	50 TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Majority	6TEEN	Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Futurama	Tripping-Rift
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	National Geographic		The Royal (N) (CC)		Prime Suspect (Part 2 of 2) (CC)				Beautiful
	575	583	20 CMT	Sugarland: Live		Lambert: One	Kellie Pickler	Funniest Home Videos		Shaye: This Is It		Sugarland
	615	520	31 A&E	Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Criminal Minds (CC)		Criminal
	521	560	34 TLC	Chocolatiers	Chocolatiers	19 Kids and Counting (CC)		Cake Boss (CC)		Chocolatiers	Chocolatiers	17 Kids
	616	522	39 SHO	Cra$h & Burn (CC)		Lost in the Dark (2007, Suspense) Mae Whitman. (CC)				Damages (CC)		Cra$h & Burn
	294	650	47 TBS	(:12) Independence Day ★★★ (1996, Science Fiction) Will Smith, Bill Pullman.						(:12) Jerry Maguire ★★★ (1996) (CC)		
	603	561	69 FN	Dinner: Impossible (CC)		Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Jamie's Ministry of Food		Iron Chef America (CC)		Dinner
	-	-	95 AMC	Alien Res.		Stargate ★★ (1994, Science Fiction) Kurt Russell, James Spader. (CC)				Movies	Movies	Bride-Chucky
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:20) Burn After Reading		Sunshine Cleaning ★★★ (2008)			(:45) Adventureland ★★★ (2009) Jesse Eisenberg.			
	581	566	101 MTV	Peak Season	After	1 girl 5 gays	Over Bolts	After	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	Cribs (CC)	1 girl 5 gays

club metro WEEKLY REWARDS

IN THEATRES FEBRUARY 5TH

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Heroes don't drink and drive

Adrian Pasdar was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence. The Heroes actor, who is married to Dixie Chicks singer Natalie Maines, was pulled over by LA police on Wednesday, according to TMZ.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Pete, pick another pocket

PREFERABLY ONE WITHOUT COPIOUS AMOUNTS OF NARCOTICS STUFFED INTO IT Pete Doherty has nearly as many drug and driving offenses to his name as he has years spent on this planet. On Tuesday, the Babyshambles frontman was slapped on the wrist for his latest offense — bringing 13 doses of heroin into a drunk-driving hearing, popeater.com reports. An English court handed him only a $1,400 US fine. But it's about to get worse for the embattled tabloid prince. Maybe a whole lot worse after friend Robin Whitehead was found dead of an overdose just a day after visiting the rocker, the website adds.

Doherty was in court for sentencing on Dec. 21 for June charges of driving carelessly while drunk and in possession of drugs when "13 wraps of heroin" fell from his pocket. "He was in a rush to get to court. He was handed a coat and he didn't check the pockets," his lawyer explained to the judge on Tuesday. The popular musician pleaded guilty to the December charges. He was ordered to pay $3,300 in fines and was banned from driving for 18 months. The drugs fell out of his pockets upon his exiting the courthouse.

His lawyer explained to the court that Doherty "is a recovering heroin addict and has received some very sophisticated medical treatment."

Because he is currently in treatment, and is reportedly using medical implants that cancel the effects of heroin, Judge Boparai decided against using the "public purse" to rehabilitate the singer.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Just call him 'Prez'

IS THIS THE TYPE OF PLACE THAT THEY SHOULD SEND THIS COOL CAT? Will Smith is thinking about a career change, according to his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, who's not exactly thrilled about it.

"Will is thinking about going into politics. He once said he could imagine becoming a U.S. president. He wasn't joking, he was quite serious about it," Pinkett Smith says, according to Hollyscoop. But politics isn't exactly up her alley.

"It's just not for me," she insists. Whether or not a run for the White House is in their future, Pinkett Smith says they are thinking about the bigger picture, though. "Will and I want to leave traces on this planet — and with that I mean more important traces than just films."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Tiger has been a very bad boy

SOMEONE'S BEEN A NAUGHTY GOLFER A woman who claims to have been a paid escort for Tiger Woods doesn't think the golfer's stint in sex rehab will do the trick, usmagazine.com reports.

"I am not really sure rehab for sex addition will help him," Loredana Jolie, who claims to have slept with Woods on numerous occasions, tells the New York Post. Woods' rep would not return calls to The Post regarding her allegations.

Jolie says she worked as an escort for "madam" Michelle Braun, who claimed in December that Woods was a client. Also known as Loredana Ferriolo, the Sicilian-born woman says of her trysts Woods, "He would engage in sex from 9 p.m. until the sun came up the next morning. But he wasn't a healthy guy. He couldn't sleep and would stay up all night."

Jolie alleges that the 34-year-old golfer's sexual fantasies were "not normal." Among his supposed wants: "entertaining, role play, fetishes, stuff like that … but he would only watch … he would also ask me to text him pictures of myself when we weren't together."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Husband sues studio

ALSO SUING THE GRIM REAPER Simon Monjack is planning to sue Warner Brothers for the wrongful death of his wife, Brittany Murphy, the Daily Beast reports.

Two weeks prior to Murphy's sudden death on Dec. 20 at age 32, the studio fired her from the sequel to the animated smash Happy Feet, where she was to reprise the role of penguin Gloria. "She was devastated," Monjack tells the Daily Beast's Gerald Posner. "They killed her."

Murphy's cause of death has yet to be released by the L.A. coroner's office — but Monjack and the star's mother, Sharon Murphy, both believe that the Clueless actress suffered a heart attack as a direct result of her cancelled contract.

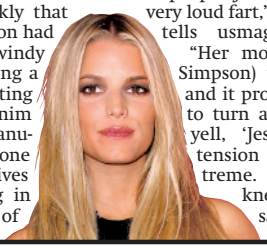
METRO WORLD NEWS

Jessica 'Farty Pants' Simpson

CLASSY, AS ALWAYS A source tells Us Weekly that Jessica Simpson had a, ahem, windy moment during a business meeting for her denim line in late January. "While one of the executives was speaking in a room full of five people, Jessica let out a very loud fart," an insider tells usmagazine.com "Her mother (Tina Simpson) was there, and it prompted her to turn around and yell, 'Jessica!' The tension was extreme. No one knew what to say."

It wasn't Simpson's first brush with public flatulence: She famously cut loose on an episode of Newlyweds, telling then-husband Nick Lachey, "You love my stinky ass," and professed her fondness for between-the-sheets poots (a.k.a. Dutch ovens) to a radio station in 2008.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Pitter patter of tiny Ferrell feet

PLEASE LET HIS MIDDLE NAME BE 'ROSE' OR 'GREASE' Will Ferrell and his wife, Viveca Paulin, welcomed their third son, Axel, who was born last week in Los Angeles, according to People magazine. The baby was born just hours after Ferrell and Paulin appeared on the final episode of The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien, where they performed Lynard Skynard's Free Bird in full hippie garb for the outgoing NBC host. "All the Ferrells are well," the actor's rep tells the magazine.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

TONY HAWK doesn't speak Chinese, but he can pretend, **JESSICA SIMPSON** can tell the future, **BILL COSBY** has some unwanted house guests, and **RAINN WILSON** is looking into quite a flattering mirror.

@tonyhawk Did a video yesterday for the State Dept: welcomed people to the USA Pavillion, in Mandarin (slaughtered the pronounciation). Life is weird.

@JessicaSimpson Had a dream at the start of fball season about the superbowl and I saw the colors purple and blue. Blue- Colts Purple? Will the Vikings win?

@BillCosby Human beings are the only creatures on earth that allow their children to come back home.

@rainnwilson I got a haircut. Now I look exactly like Matt Damon.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Charlie's angel

REMEMBER, KIDS, WISDOM-TOOTH REMOVAL AND PNEUMONIA LEAD TO DRUG ABUSE Charlie Sheen's wife, Brooke Mueller, is currently resting in a rehab facility in South Carolina, her father tells Radar Online, though he wouldn't confirm what she's in rehab for. "She is recognizing that she needs help and she can't do it on her own," Jon Fiore tells the website. "She is there. But it's a recovery place, and it is in a resort setting and the picture I'd like to paint more is that she's seeking help she wants to, she's dealing with this."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Today Rain 80% 7° / 6°

Saturday Rain 80% 8° / 6°

Sunday Cloudy 8° / 5°

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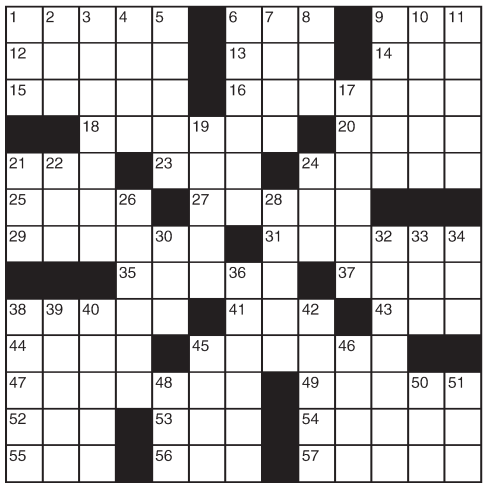
Take Five



ACROSS

1 Pie maker's device, at times
6 Sch. org.
9 Burst
12 Scent
13 Work unit
14 "Hail, Caesar!"
15 Genius
16 One who's hardly humble
18 Short and thick
20 Sty cry
21 Salamander
23 Crony
24 Intersect
25 Complaint
27 Skewered entree
29 Upbraid
31 Disinclined
35 Shopping centers
37 Go sightseeing
38 Claw
41 Victory
43 Inseparable
44 Language of Pakistan
45 Tots' break time
47 Supplementary dose
49 Election tally
52 Cleo's slayer
53 Ref
54 Varnish ingredient
55 Neptune's realm
56 Derek and Diddley
57 Old episode

DOWN

1 Taxi
2 Bobby of hockey lore
3 Poultry purchase
4 Send forth
5 Accumulated, as debts
6 Little rock
7 Avoirdupois alternative
8 — Khan
9 Veranda
10 They take the cake
11 Makes coffee, maybe
17 Fruity ice
19 Rock drummer Ginger
21 Decline
22 Doctor's due
24 Cleveland cager, for short
26 Renowned
28 Fundamental
30 Catch some rays
32 Farm alarm?
33 Baltimore newspaper
34 Prior to
36 Insignificant ones
38 Brass instruments
39 Got up
40 Treatment for Parkinson's
42 When pigs fly
45 San —, Italy
46 Unrivaled
48 Jalopy among boats
50 Flightless bird
51 Break a Commandment

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	5	9		1	4	2		
	8				6			5
			7	9				
		7				5	2	
			9		3			
	1	3				6		
				8	1			
9			2				4	
		1	4	3		8	7	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

L	I	S	T		H	A	M		E	M	U	S		
O	D	O	R		E	G	O		Y	U	L	E		
N	O	S	E		L	O	S		E	T	N	A		
G	L	O	B	E	S		S	A	L	A	A	M		
			E	L	I			N	E	T				
J	O	C	K		N	O	T	A	T	I	O	N		
A	N	I			K	O	I			O	R	E		
R	O	T	A	T	I	O	N		U	N	T	O		
		A	M	O			K	I	N					
S	I	T	U	P	S		E	D	W	A	R	D		
I	S	I	S		O	E	R		R	O	A	R		
F	L	O	E		M	O	E		A	N	T	I		
T	E	N	D		E	N	D		P	E	E	P		

4	7	3	1	2	8	6	5	9
1	6	5	4	9	3	2	7	8
2	9	8	5	7	6	1	3	4
7	5	6	9	4	2	8	1	3
3	8	1	7	6	5	4	9	2
9	2	4	3	8	1	5	6	7
5	1	9	2	3	4	7	8	6
8	3	2	6	1	7	9	4	5
6	4	7	8	5	9	3	2	1

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chinese Beef Noodle Soup

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 ml) soy sauce
1 tbsp (15 ml) toasted sesame oil
2 tbsp (25 ml) dry sherry
2/3 lb (300 g) lean rump steak, sliced into very thin strips
4 cups (1l) beef stock
4 scallions, sliced
5 oz (150 g) shiitake mushrooms, thickly sliced
7 oz (200 g) baby bok choy, leaves halved
8 oz (250 g) instant fine egg noodles
1 tbsp (15 ml) canola oil

METHOD:

1. Combine soy sauce, sesame oil and sherry in bowl. Add strips of beef and toss until well mixed. Leave to marinate.
2. Heat stock in large pot or flame-proof casserole. Add scallions, sliced mushrooms and halved bok choy, and simmer 2 minutes.
3. Add nests of noodles to pan of vegetables and cook 2-4 minutes or until tender.
4. While noodles are cooking, heat wok or frying pan with oil and stir-fry beef until browned. Tip contents of pan into simmering stock. Bring back to boil. Taste and season with black pepper, then ladle into four serving bowls and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
With Mars, your ruler, transiting the most dynamic area of you chart good things will start happening soon.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Listen carefully to what loved ones and other family members have to tell you today because in one area at least they know what they are talking about.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
It may be frustrating that you can't seem to make up your mind over something which would normally take about three seconds to deal with.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
There are so many opportunities available to you now that you may find it hard to decide which ones to take advantage of.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You need to be selfish. You need to do what you want to do and if others don't like it that's too bad.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You may not approve of what a friend has done but you don't intend to condemn them for it either.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
If you don't know what it is you want how can you expect other people to know? The most important thing today is that you have a clear idea what to do.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
If you feel out of place in your present location then get up and go somewhere else. You are under no obligation to stay where you are.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Try not to read too much into what partners and colleagues say. True, they might have chosen their words with more care, you are being too touchy.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
If a friend or relative makes a suggestion today you would do well to listen. Someone close is about to have an extraordinary insight.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You like to take risks and, most of the time, they tend to pay off, but the cosmic picture is so uncertain today that it might be wise to bet only on certainties.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There will be occasions today, and tomorrow, when it seems as if you are the only one who is out of step with the times.

This day in history

1886: Karl Benz patents the first successful gasoline-driven automobile.
1900: Baseball's American League is organized in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with eight founding teams.
1936: The first inductees into the Baseball Hall of Fame are announced.
1963: The first inductees into the Pro Football Hall of Fame are announced.
1996: President Jacques Chirac announces a "definitive end" to French nuclear weapons testing.

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Phoenix	from $138 + taxes & fees $104
Las Vegas	from $158 + taxes & fees $108
Los Angeles	from $169 + taxes & fees $159
Toronto	one-way from $179 + taxes & fees $54
San Francisco	from $249 + taxes & fees $110
London	from $349 + taxes & fees $465
New York	from $449 + taxes & fees $115
Rome	from $459 + taxes & fees $358
Lima	from $789 + taxes & fees $215
Melbourne	from $859 + taxes & fees $520
Sydney	from $889 + taxes & fees $539
Chile	from $999 + taxes & fees $228

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Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star	from $774 + taxes & fees $212
Cancun 7 Nights 4-Star	from $775 + taxes & fees $280
Panama City 7 Nights 4-Star	from $797 + taxes & fees $234
Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star	from $832 + taxes & fees $265

Family Vacations

Honolulu Family Special
Air + 7 Nights
from **$599**◊
+ taxes & fees $122
INCLUDES Waikiki accom.

Maui Family Special
Air + 7 Nights — from $689◊ + taxes & fees $126

Vacations

Las Vegas
Air + 4 Nights 3.5-Star
from **$299**
+ taxes & fees $113
INCLUDES accom on the Strip.

San Francisco Air + 3 Nights — from $299 + taxes & fees $102

California Coast Air + Car — from $349 + taxes & fees $108
INCLUDES air into San Francisco, return from Los Angeles and 7-day car rental. **UPGRADE** to convertible car from $13 per day.

Dublin St Patrick's Day
Air + 6 Nights — from $1199 + taxes & fees $332
INCLUDES central accom near Temple Bar.
ADD traditional Irish house party including dinner and show from $75.

February Escapes!

Departures Feb 10th - 21st

February All-inclusives

Puerto Vallarta
7 Nights 3-Star
from **$768**
+ taxes & fees $264

Mayan Riviera 7 Nights 4-Star	from $897 + taxes & fees $264
Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star	from $945 + taxes & fees $212
Cancun 7 Nights 4-Star	from $947 + taxes & fees $264
La Romana 7 Nights 4.5-Star	from $948 + taxes & fees $312
Samana 7 Nights 4-Star	from $967 + taxes & fees $313
Punta Cana 7 Nights 4-Star	from $977 + taxes & fees $313

INCLUDES junior suite accom

Valentine's Day Vacations

Victoria
Valentine's Day Weekend
2 Nights + Activity
from **$169**‡
taxes & fees included
INCLUDES accom at the famous Fairmont Empress and passes to your choice of either Butchart Gardens or the Royal BC Museum.

Tofino Valentine's Day Weekend
2 Nights — from $269‡ taxes & fees included
INCLUDES beachfront suite accom.

Niagara Falls Valentine's Day Weekend
Air + 2 Nights + Car — from $559 + taxes & fees $121
INCLUDES car rental from Toronto and Niagara Falls accom during Valentine's Day weekend.

PERFECT HOLIDAY PROMISE
Enjoy your holiday or we'll give you $100 towards another one!†

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